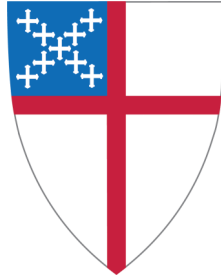


The Epistle

October/November
2018



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear friends in Christ,

Wow! What a wonderful start we have had to our program year. The Groundbreaking ceremony was awesome, and we are making plans to start the construction of our new Outreach House. By the time you receive this Epistle we would have just said goodbye to another faithful St. James' parishioner, Barbara Kott. Barbara's death reminds us of how uncertain life can be. Barbara's life reminds us to pay attention to the things that matter most: family, friends and our neighbors! This is a busy time in our lives. Everything in the world seems to start in the Fall and if we are not mindful we can easily get overwhelmed and exhausted! At this time it is so important to take some time and slow down and spend some time with God. Take time to see the beauty of the fall foliage. Take in the colors of cornstalks and pumpkin patches! Take time to see the wonder of creation around you and give thanks! I believe one of the best respites from all the busyness is worship. Yes, I know that the Fall brings busyness to the Church also. The Choir has begun; people are making plans for our Blessing of the Animals, All Hallows Eve service and All Saints Day! In the midst of all that please know that I appreciate each and every one of you! I firmly believe that God does not want us to be fatigued! Let the beauty of our Liturgy revive you. Let the wonder of the sacrament of Holy Communion feed your soul! Let the fellowship of our brothers and sisters give your strength. May God be with you and yours as we celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let our lives, like Barbara's, reflect the things that matter most. May we be conscience of our relationship with God, our families and with our neighbors.

Yours in Christ,

Mike ⁺

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

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- ♦ Rick Toth 610-495-6913

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- ♦ Peggy Spinozzi 610-489-1739

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610-933-5177
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- ♦ Gene Goff 610-489-0765

Parish Life

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- ♦ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488

Member Ministries

- ♦ Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Epistle Editor

- ♦ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564



Outreach House

A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church



*We're
Breaking
New
Ground
and
Building
the Future*



If you were unable to attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Outreach House you can see a video and pictures of the celebration on St. James' website www.stjames-episcopal.org. Click the Growing to Serve logo for full coverage of the event.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to join your parish family in supporting expansion of St. James' Outreach House we hope the words of the celebration presenters will inspire you to do so. You can take your turn to ensure success of this venture by following the donate link on the page. We fulfill St. James' mission to "know and serve God by serving others" by serving our neighbors in need.



GROUND BREAKING

Celebration on Sept. 8, 2018





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
 - Altar Flowers
 - And much more!
 - Capital Campaign Pledge/Donations
 - Holiday Giving
- Schedule and manage recurring donations
- Make one-time donations to special appeals

If you are interested, please visit GivePlus and select St. James' Episcopal Church. You can do this on your mobile device or computer. For more information or questions, please contact Dale Pennacker at 215-896-7424 or dalepenna@gmail.com.



**Jim Earhart Memorial
Job Club Meeting
Thursday, October 4th, 6pm - 7pm, Ursinus
College, Bears' Den
in Wismer Hall**

Topic: Interviewing: including but not limited to for temp work, how to address gaps in employment, phone interviews, etc.

Pizza and soda provided. Enter off of 5th Ave and park in any open spot. No parking permit needed.



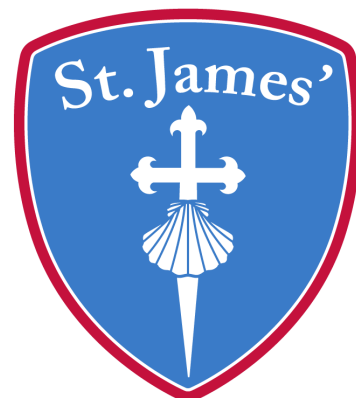
Ursinus College

Next Epistle Submission November 15

Committee leaders please send
in your communication forms
to the office

office@stjames-episcopal.org

for review and inclusion in the
December/January Edition of
the Epistle by November 15th.





EDUCATION PROGRAM

knowledge. faith. and fellowship

Welcome back to a new school year! Church School officially began on September 9th and it was a wonderful day filled with smiles and joy! Here are some “church school stats” for you:

- ⇒ 16 teachers (regular teachers and substitutes) are involved in the Education Program
- ⇒ 26 families have registered for Church School
- ⇒ 46 children and youth are registered for Church School (Pre-K - 12th Grade)

If you haven't already done so, please register your children for classes. (You need to register every year!) Visit stjames-episcopal.org/education to register online!

Here is a quick reminder about what your kids are learning in Unit One!

- ⇒ The Primary Class will begin the year by discussing the promises of God. They will study Noah for three weeks, followed by Moses.
- ⇒ The Elementary Class continues their study on covenant (which began last year) by studying Judges and Kings from the Old Testament (Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Samuel, Ruth, and David.)
- ⇒ The Middle School Class is starting their year with a study of who Jesus is and how He relates to us. They began by studying the importance of Jesus' baptism as it relates to our own. They will continue their unit by studying “Peter: Recognizing Christ”, “Woman at the Well: Welcoming Outsiders”, “Nicodemus: Learning from Jesus”, “Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: Life Out of Death”, and “Thomas: Searching for Jesus”.
- ⇒ The High School teachers are forming their own lessons, customized to the students they teach.

Here are some pictures from the first day of class!

The Primary Class decorated boxes that will be turned into their version of Noah's ark!

Fr. Mike enjoys his chats with the kids when they return to church.

Details about our education programs and Youth Groups can be found in the Special Education Edition of the Epistle or on our website at stjames-episcopal.org.

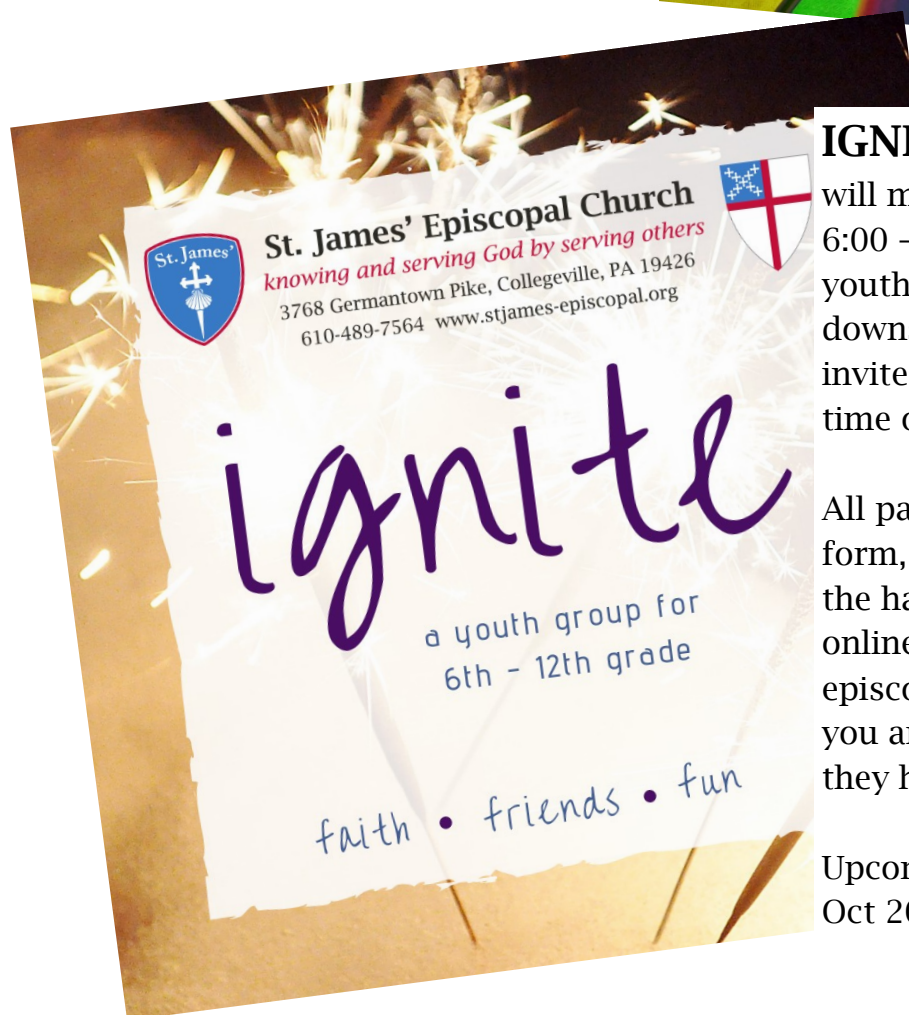
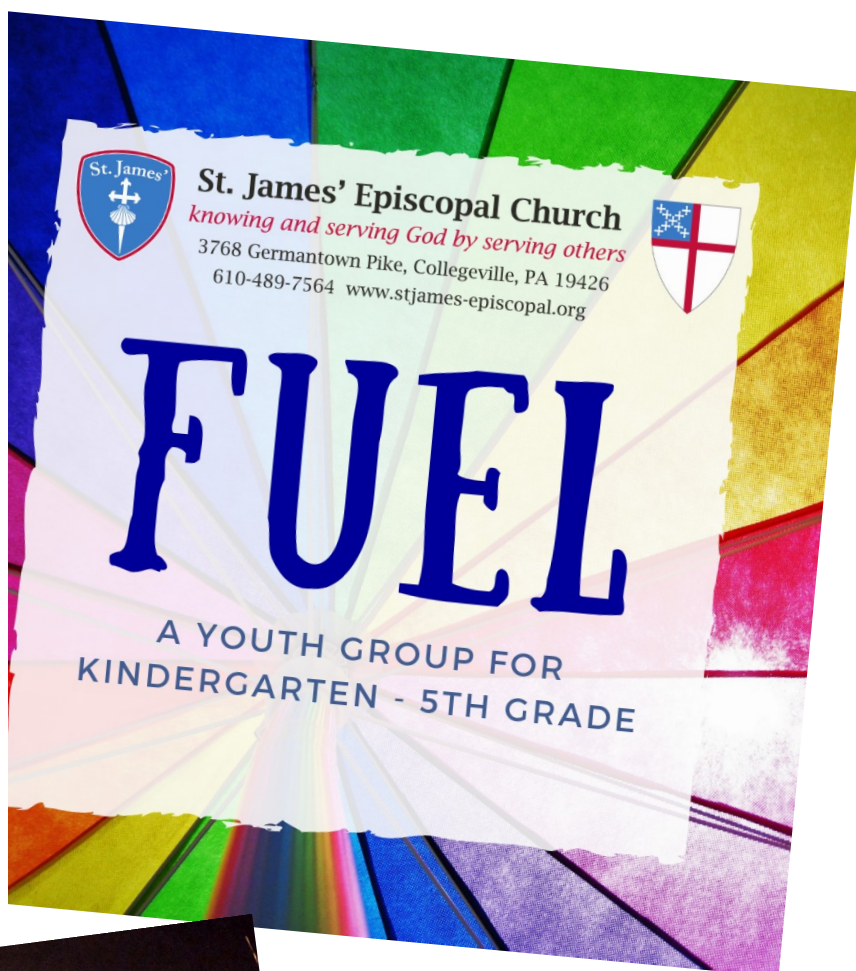


The FUEL Youth Group

meets on select Saturdays from 6:00 – 8:00pm. All K – 5th grade youth are welcome. We will meet downstairs in the youth room. Please invite your friends to join us for this time of fellowship and fun! Parents can drop-off/pick-up or stay for the fun. A small snack will be provided.

All participants require a consent form, found on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary or online at <https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/forms-resources/>. (If you are bringing friends, make sure they have a completed form as well!)

Upcoming dates: September 22nd, October 13th, and November 10th.



IGNITE Youth Group

will meet on select Saturdays from 6:00 – 8:30pm. All 6th - 12th grade youth are welcome. We will meet downstairs in the youth room. Please invite your friends to join us for this time of fellowship and fun!

All participants require a consent form, found on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary or online at <https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/forms-resources/>. (If you are bringing friends, make sure they have a completed form as well!)

Upcoming dates: Sept 29, Oct 20, Nov 17

The All Hallows' Eve Service and Church Costume Party

will take place Sunday, October
28th from 6:30 - 8:30pm.
Everyone is invited to come (in
costume!) and join in the fun!

After a brief service, the
following festivities will
commence:

- Costume Contest
- Halloween-Themed Bingo
- A variety of crafts and games
 - Bobbing for Donuts
- Decorate-Your-Own Spooky
Cupcakes



For these fun activities, and more of what's happening, please visit our website at www.stjames-episcopal.org, follow us on Facebook, or email our Christian Education Director, Lauren Exley, at education@stjames-episcopal.org.



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving others
3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426



church family night

OCTOBER 6
6:00 - 8:30PM

Free to play! Fun prizes!
Bring your own dinner and snacks.
All ages welcome. Invite your friends!



Are you ready to play BINGO?

Our first Church Family
Night will be held on
October 6th from 6:00 -
8:30pm. All are invited -
free to play and lots of
prizes to win! Everyone
is encouraged to bring
their own dinner and
snacks. Bring something
from home, visit a drive-
thru, or stop and pick-up
your favorite hoagie!



Outreach House

A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church



ALL HANDS ON DECK!!!!

Annual Boy Scout Food Collection



The annual Boy Scout Food Collection day is on Saturday November 17th at 9am. The Outreach House is the beneficiary of the non-perishable food collected by Boy Scout Troop 119 on this morning. In the past the food would be brought to Platts Hall for counting and sorting and then taken by the truckload over to the OH. This year we will be working directly at the Outreach House. It is a massive undertaking and many hands make light work. This is an excellent event for elementary kids to participate along side their parents! If you have any questions, please ask! Thank you!

Carole Exley, Director outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.org 610-489-3481

Foyer Gatherings

A Foyer Gathering is an informal evening of food, fellowship, and fun at a parishioner's home. It's a great way to meet and get to know other members of the congregation. Bring an appetizer or dessert and beverage of choice to share as well as an item for the Outreach House pantry.

Join us Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the home of Deb DiSanto and Ned Travis.

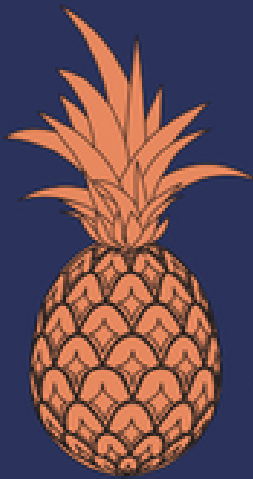
In the spirit of Halloween, Deb and Ned are asking attendees to come dressed as a favorite character from film, TV, literature, history or cartoon. [Costume, not required] The sign-up sheet to attend is on the bulletin board near the office.

On November 17th, Val & Curt Allen will host the next Foyers. Mark your calendars now!

If you haven't attended a Foyer yet, we hope you'll come to one this year!

Contact Joanne Tatem or Ned Travis with questions





Newcomers

WELCOME BREAKFAST

Sunday, October 14 at 9:00 AM

New Comers are invited to join Fr. Mike, Deacon Lou and St. James' parish leadership in Platts Hall for a light breakfast between the 8:00 & 10:00 AM services.

WE WANT TO MEET YOU!

This informal gathering provides an opportunity for us to attach faces to names. It will also be an opportunity for you to meet many of the folks who facilitate our parish organizations and learn a bit about each group.

Children are welcome. Nursery also available if you prefer

Those that were unable to attend the Spring New Comers' Breakfast are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP: bebateman@verizon.net

Photo Op!!!

Is your family's photo missing from St. James' Parish Directory???

The Parish Directory is an important tool to help us know each other.

Individual/family photos will be taken following 10:00 AM worship on Sunday, October 21 and following 5:00 PM worship on Saturday, October 27.

Please meet outside the parish office following services for photo session.

Help your parish family get to know your face as well as your name





Update from St. James' Vestry

The regular monthly meeting of St. James' Vestry was held on Tuesday, September 18. While several issues of concern to the parish were addressed the main topic of discussion involved issues regarding construction and financing of the new facility to house St. James' Outreach House. Chief decision made was the appointment of Halteman Brothers Building Contractors of Trappe as general contractor for the project. Presently the Vestry is working with Halteman Bros. to arrive at a final cost proposal at which time a contract will be signed. Members of the Vestry, Halteman Bros. and GKO Architects are working together to arrive at a figure that will give St. James' the best value for dollars spent.

Halteman Bros. submitted the lowest of 9 bids presented to GKO in July. Since that time, as some costs were in excess of what the Vestry wanted to financially undertake, work has been done to look at all aspects of the project with an eye to reducing costs where change in materials and/or design will not adversely affect the final construction, efficient use of the building, or municipal requirements. Please be aware that there are areas where there is no leeway within those municipal requirements. We are obligated to follow all as stipulated by Lower Providence Township in order to be approved for use and occupancy of the building at the end of construction.. This includes site work which entails considerable expense and would be necessary no matter the final cost of the building itself.

As you know, after formal approval of the project given by Lower Providence Township on September 6th, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the site on September 8th. Presenters at the ceremony detailed the need for the facility and praised the St. James' congregation for its commitment to the project and for its commitment to community members for whom the Outreach House has become a resource.

We the Vestry understand the frustration which some may be experiencing over what may seem undue delay with this long planned project. We assure you that no stone is being left unturned to ensure its viability and will provide details as soon as all have been settled. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work out the final details and will invite you to celebrate with us as the first construction vehicle arrives on the property.

Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi



Blessing of the Animals—Sunday, Oct 7th, 11:15AM

Pet sitting available from 9:30-11AM

All animals are welcome—real or stuffed. We will meet on the lawn near the St. James' statue immediately following the 10AM worship service.

High School students are asked to arrive by 9:30am to help with pet-sitting in Platt's Hall. Pre-K - 8th Grade classes will run as usual, beginning at 10am.

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".



October cookie: **Chocolate Chip**
November cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

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



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426

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



Join us for
**Christ and
Coffee**

Every Thursday
11am - 12pm
in Platt's Hall



ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

October

7th The Shawaluk Family
14th Mrs. Jane Shinehouse
22nd Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hummer
 Karen Fetter
28th Mrs. Faith Parshall
 The Tatem Family



CONGRATULATIONS RON!

After serving as the Organist and Choirmaster for 31 years, we celebrated the retirement of Ron Davis on September 16th with a special dinner and presentation of gifts.



A deep and abiding thanks for the fellowship, the dinner, the music, the icon, and the gift at my retirement celebration. Most of all thanks for thirty-one years. I'm sure that I received more than I gave.

Sincerely,
Ron



Sundays in October and November - Parish Life is seeking volunteers to host a coffee hour after the Sunday 10 am service. Please consider taking a turn to foster this important fellowship time. The sign-up sheets are posted near the coffee station. You can be reimbursed for the incurred expense.

Oct 02 - ECW is hosting their Fall meeting at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. All women in the congregation are invited to attend!

Oct 03 - Good Book Club will reconvene. Contact Ginny Tinner , if interested.

Oct 20 - Foyers hosted by Deb DiSanto & Ned Travis

Nov 03 - Annual Ham & Oyster Dinner from 5 - 7 pm; Closer to the date, watch for details and sign up sheets to help out. We need YOU to make this a successful all parish event!

Nov 17 - Foyers hosted by Val & Curt Allen.

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.

Buildings & Grounds: B&G meets monthly to discuss and prioritize upkeep needs of the church. For more information please contact Steve Jackson at sfjax123@gmail.com or 610-831-1987.k

Choir (Advanced, Chancel, Junior): Contact Lauren Exley at 610-4897564 or music@stjames-episcopal.org

Christian Education & Youth Groups: Contact Lauren Exley at 610-4897564 or education@stjames-episcopal.org.

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 assists with internal and external communications to inform both our parishioners and our community of events, activities worship at St. James'. For more information contact Lisa Reinhardt, 610-489-7564 office@stjames-episcopal.org

Counters: The Counters work as a pair on a rotating schedule every Sunday immediately following the 10AM service to count, organize and record that week's giving. For more information, contact Dale Pennacker at 215-896-7424, dalepenna@gmail.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 Joanne Tatem, 610-716-1816 or joanne.tatem@verizon.net

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.

Outreach House: Contact Carole Exley, Director of Operations, 610-489-3481 or outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.org.

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