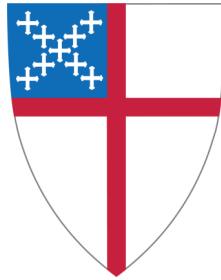


The Epistle

December 2018/
January 2019



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, many of us are distraught at the never-ending violence that seems to pervade our society. What is for certain is that the world needs to encounter the Risen Lord in a powerful way. As we make plans for our holiday season, with all the pressures and busyness that this time brings, Let's remind ourselves of the reason for the season! Remember we are celebrating the Incarnation of God in Christ! Jesus was born into a world torn by occupation and violence. Israel, at the time of Christ, was a riotous place full of uncertainty and mayhem. Jesus broke into that world preaching a message of peace and reconciliation. The celebration of his birth should remind us of that message and challenge us to be "peace-makers" and people who strive for unity and love within the midst of chaos. As we begin to observe the season of Advent, a time of Holy Waiting, of anticipating what God has instore for our lives, let us be more committed than ever to slow down, to take time to be with family and loved ones and to be models to this frantic and rushing world. Make family time to light the Advent wreath and tell the ancient story of the Incarnation of God in the form of the Christ child. To all, have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Season. May your spirit and soul be transformed this holiday season and may you encounter the Risen Christ, God incarnate in a powerful way!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike+

The Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards+
Rector
St. James' Episcopal Church

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 610-831-1987

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

Epistle Editor

- ◆ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564



Stewardship Ingathering – December 15th & 16th

“My Church Is”

Our theme for Stewardship this year is “My Church Is”. We would like all of you to think about a word or two that describes St. James’. Welcoming? Fun? Spiritual? This parish means many different things to different people.

As you consider what being a part of St. James’ means to you, please also consider how you can share that with others. We all have gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure. As faithful stewards, we are called to share these gifts in service to one another. St. James’ has done wonderful things both within the parish and for our greater community. What more can we do, who else can we help, in what new ways can we grow?

Your ongoing support of the parish allows us to welcome others to experience the love and joy of this blessed Christian community. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help all of us live out our mission statement – *to know and serve God by serving others.*

1 Peter 4:9-10 “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.”.



Celebrating Advent, Christmas & Epiphany at

St. James' Episcopal Church



ADVENT WREATHS: **Saturday & Sunday, Dec 1 & 2**, please stop by Platt's Hall to create your advent wreath. Bases, candles and booklets will be available. Bring along ribbon, sprays, anything you would like to use to personalize your wreath. If you still have your wreath from years past and need candles or new booklet please feel free to pick those up as well.

NATIVITY PAGEANT:

Please see "Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem?" insert for complete schedule.

Saturday, Dec 22, 12 Noon-3PM: Final dress rehearsal for the Nativity Pageant. All church school children are invited to participate. Please see Lauren Exley for details. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Sunday, Dec 23, 10 AM - Nativity Pageant & Eucharist followed by a special coffee hour (with a visitor dressed in Red!)

CHRISTMAS EVE—Monday, Dec 24

5 PM: Family Crèche Service & Eucharist: The Christmas Story is read and families put the crèche in place between readings. After blessing the crèche we proceed with Communion.

6 PM: Parish Christmas Eve Dinner. This dinner is open to the entire congregation. RSVP forms will be printed in the bulletin in December and will be available on the small table in the parish foyer. Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and goodwill.

10:30 PM: Carols & Festal Eucharist: Traditional Christmas "midnight" service, with carols, special music by the choir, sermon and Communion.

EPIPHANY: Sunday, Jan 6, 6 PM Please join us on Sunday night and enjoy a Parish-wide Pot-luck Dinner from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. A Candlelight Epiphany Service will follow at 7:30PM. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in mid-December.



save the dates

December 1	church family night, 6:00 - 8:30pm ornament making + movie
December 8	fuel youth group 6:00 - 8:00pm K - 5th Grade
December 15	ignite youth group, christmas party 6:00 - 8:30pm 6th - 12th Grade
December 16	"kids in church" sunday 10am worship service used toy drive donations due
December 22	pageant final dress rehearsal 12:00 - 3:00pm
December 23	christmas pageant performance call time @ 9am, performance @ 10am

COME AND SING!

CHANCEL CHOIR

One Rehearsal, One Performance
December 9th | 9:15 - 9:45 am

All 6th Grade - Adult singers welcome!
No choir experience necessary!



USED TOY DRIVE

FOR THE  **Outreach House**
A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 16TH
PLEASE PUT TOYS IN THE BOX LABELED "TOY DRIVE"

MY CHURCH IS... GENEROUS!

Youth are invited to join the "My Church Is..." Stewardship campaign! Help another child by donating one or more of your toys to the Outreach House.

My church is **GENEROUS**
because of kids like **YOU!**

BRING TOYS THAT ARE:

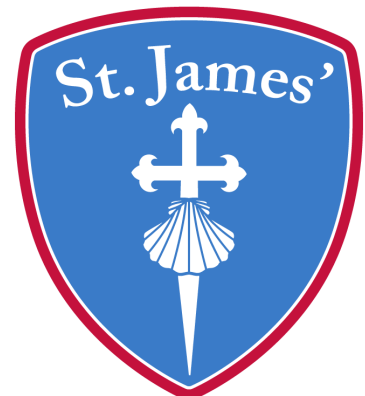
- Gently used
- Clean
- 100% functional
- Complete (all parts included!)

Next Epistle Submission January 15

Committee leaders please send
in your communication forms
to the office

office@stjames-episcopal.org

for review and inclusion in the
February/March Edition of the
Epistle by January 15th.



The Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium Choir

JOIN US FOR THE SONG OF THE SHADOWS

The CTM Choir is a newly formed choir that works in conjunction with the Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium. While many of our singers attend churches from within the Ministerium, all singers are welcome. Our first project will be the "Song of the Shadows" by Joseph Martin.

All singers are asked to commit to at least
2 rehearsals + the final dress rehearsal and
2 performances + the final performance on April 10th.

REHEARSALS - SELECT SATURDAYS

JANUARY 26

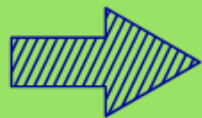
FEBRUARY 9

MARCH 2

MARCH 9

APRIL 6 - FINAL REHEARSAL (REQUIRED)

ALL REHEARSALS 1 - 3PM AT
ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



Register at stjames-episcopal.org/ctmchoir

PERFORMANCES - WEDS. IN LENT

MARCH 13 - "ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM"

MARCH 20 - "GIVEN FOR YOU"

MARCH 27 - "IN PILATE'S COURT THE SAVIOR STANDS"

APRIL 3 - "EVEN THE HEAVENS ARE WEEPING"

APRIL 10 - THE FULL CANTATA (REQUIRED)

FUNDRAISER FOR



Outreach House

A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church

Our program helps local families who are in need. Clients are provided with food, personal care items, and gently used clothing and household items.

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 3
10 AM - 9:30 PM**



The enticing flavors of Italian cuisine come to life at Bella Rosy Pizzeria. A collection of our family recipes offers the traditional taste of home-cooked pastas. Our fresh ingredients are of the finest quality. Enjoy the unique taste of our brick oven pizza. Quality time in an Italian family is always spent around the kitchen table. Come and join us. We will do our best to make you feel a part of our family. Buon Appetito!

10 am – 9:30 pm

Dine-in

Or

Take-out

Present this flyer

**15% of your total
bill will be
donated to the
Outreach House!!!**

**Thank you for
your support!**

BELLA ROSY PIZZERIA

3801 Germantown Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426

610-831-9240

www.bellarosypizzeria.com



The Episcopal Church Women

St. James' ECW Annual Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 11th, 7 pm in Platt's Hall
What to Bring: a pair of Women's pajamas (all sizes) to
donate to the Laurel House
Plus 4 dozen of your favorite cookies for our
cookie exchange!



This is a wonderful opportunity for women to meet each other, especially since we have three services at St. James' and sometimes we don't know those who attend a different service. At our October meeting we decided that rather than exchanging gifts, we will buy a pair of women's pajamas to donate to Laurel House. All sizes needed.

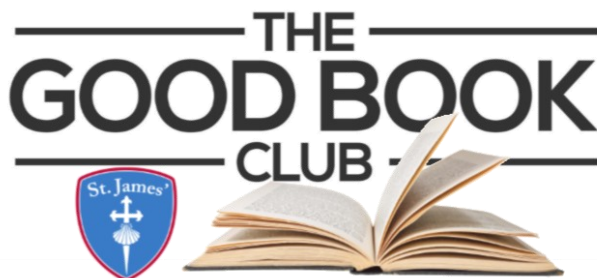
To add to the fun, we are going to have a cookie exchange. Just bring four dozen of your favorite cookie and a container for the cookies you will get in the exchange.

Postcards will be mailed soon to all the women of the parish about our Christmas Party. If don't receive a postcard, please feel free to call me at 610-635-0399 to RSVP. We like to know how many women will attend so we can make the necessary preparations. There will also be extra postcards on the table by the back door too.

I look forward to seeing you on December 11. Please join us!

Jean Branco

ECW President



The Good Book Club is now meeting during the day. We meet five times a year, on the second Mondays of October, December, February, April, and June at 1:00 P.M.

The selections for the remainder of this year are:

- December – The Signal Flame by Andrew Krivak
- February – Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
- April – Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
- June – The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah

All are welcome!

Outreach House Construction Update!

We are moving slowly but surely toward beginning the construction of the new facility. We ran into a snag with PennDot and had to resubmit our application. The changes that PennDot required also facilitated changes to our Land Development plan which we resubmitted on November the 13th. The Lower Providence Township has reviewed our Land Development plan and is in the process of issuing a Foundation permit which will allow us to start construction as we await the final paperwork from PennDot. The process has been excruciatingly slow. Please pray for your Rector and Vestry for patience.



Outreach House
A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church



Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem?

Performance Date: Sunday, December 23rd @ 10am

Synopsis The animals who live near the manger have heard that a new baby has been born! They are all very curious to know what kind of baby it might be and are eager to solve the mystery. Hearing that the baby is the "Lamb of God," the lambs believe the baby will be like them. The doves heard that the baby is the "Prince of Peace" and think the baby must be a dove. All the other animals in turn are sure the baby will be like them. The angels guide the animals to the manger, where upon their arrival, the mystery is solved. They learn that "the King of kings brings peace and love to creatures great and small" and that this baby is the "Son of God who has come to save us all."

Participants Anyone in Pre-K – 12th grade is welcome to join the production! (HS students who participate will serve as student directors.) Choose from a speaking role (a few lines of rhyming dialogue) or a non-speaking role (still joining in with singing!)

Sign-Ups Please confirm participation (if you've previously registered) or add your child's name to the cast list posted on the bulletin board. Make sure to sign-up for a "Speaking Role" or "Non-Speaking Role." Sign-ups will be accepted until November 18th.

Practice Music Videos There are 5 very short songs included in this show. Practice videos can be found on St. James' Music Portal. Most should be able to learn the words by listening and singing along. Scripts with the words will be distributed at the end of November, but please take the time to learn the songs ahead of our first rehearsal date.

<https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/music/>

Password: SJECmusic

Rehearsals

Sunday, December 2nd from 11:15 – 12pm (All)*

Sunday, December 9th from 11:15 – 12pm (Speaking Roles Only)*

Sunday, December 16th from 11:15 – 12pm (All)*

Saturday December 22nd from 12 – 3pm (Required Dress Rehearsal)

*Junior Choir will meet BRIEFLY following pageant rehearsals to prepare their anthem for Christmas Eve.

Please make every effort to attend all rehearsals. Please let us know ahead of time if there are any rehearsals you absolutely cannot attend. If you know that your schedule will not permit you to stay for the rehearsals, consider signing up with a non-speaking role that can be more easily learned.

I don't need to go to church to be a Christian!

Too many times have I been confronted with someone making such a statement. When I first heard this statement, I would try and talk about the benefits of community and how we are strengthened when we come together. I would talk about how the Church Catholic is powerful when the believers come together in worship. I quit doing this! My answer now is simple. I tell the person making such a proclamation that to be a Christian, by definition, means to believe in Christ but, to be an Episcopalian means you must come to church.

As Episcopalians, we do everything in community! There are no private baptisms in the Episcopal Church! There is no private Eucharist either! It may surprise some of you to know that I am not allowed to celebrate Communion by myself. For Eucharist to happen, the body of Christ must gather and offer gifts of bread and wine, representing the fruits of the earth. We also offer the gifts of our tithes and offerings which represent the fruits of our labor. Lastly, we offer ourselves as we kneel and raise our hands to receive the gifts of God, the body and blood of our Lord.

Since the beginning of Christianity, believers in Christ have gathered to share in the reading and hearing of God's Word. They have gathered in fellowship and in the sharing of a sacred meal. The author of Acts of the Apostles told of this Christian tradition when he recorded Peter's sermon and the consequent actions of the believers after the falling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The author wrote:

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;

Acts 2:38-42 (NRSV)

It is from this passage of scripture that the first of the five promise questions that are asked of the whole congregation from the Baptismal Covenant just after the recitation of our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. All are asked:

Celebrant	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?	
People	I will, with God's help.	BCP page 301

When we satisfy our vows, we are joining an ancient tradition of the first followers of Christ. Our Liturgy of Holy Eucharist allows us to fulfill all four aspects of this vow at once. Our liturgy begins with a gathering and then we sit and hear the Word of God read to us from a lectern or pulpit and then we hear the Gospel read to the people from the midst of the congregation. All this is intentional. After the liturgy of the Word, which ends when the sermon ends, we communally pray for Christ Church and the world in the prayers of the People. Next, we transition to the liturgy of the Table. At the offertory, I invite all at the celebration to bring their treasure and themselves to the Communion rail. *(Continued on following page)*

(Continued) Notice that I place all our gifts, the gifts of wine and bread, the gifts of food and stuff for the Outreach House as well as the offertory plates which hold our collective treasure, all are placed on the Communion Table and all are part of ourselves as we celebrate the Eucharist. We ask God to receive and bless our gifts. We ask God to sanctify the wine and the bread to be the Body and Blood of Christ. We acknowledge the spiritual gifts for spiritual people and lastly, we bring ourselves, on bended knee, to receive the sacrament and to offer ourselves in service. All four aspects of the first promise made at baptism; Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers, are fulfilled when we come to Church and participate in the celebration of Eucharist.

Scripture tells us that when two or three are gathered in Christ name that Christ is in the midst of us. I believe that when the people of God gather for Eucharist that Christ is there spiritually and sacramentally. Christ is present in all of us who have been baptized into his death, burial and resurrection. Christ is also present in the sacrament of his body and blood in the bread and wine that has been sanctified. **There is no other time on Earth where Christ is more present to his people than at the Eucharistic hour.** Yes, you can believe in Christ and not attend Church. You can stay home and do devotionals and say prayers. But, if you do so, you will miss out on the blessings of a sacramental Christ as well as the fellowship of other believers. Yes, you can be a Christian and not attend Church, but you can't be an Episcopalian! Who would want to be anything else!

— Fr. Mike+

Did you attend the first “Kids in Church” Sunday of the year on October 21st? These Sundays are important because they extend the classroom learning into the “real world”. The kids worship with their class (they don't sit with their parents for the beginning part of the service), older youth read the lessons, kids collect the offering and bring forward donations, and our young singers robe and process as a Junior Choir. Not only do our youth practice the motions of the service, they become more familiar with our tools of worship. Though the students use the Book of Common Prayer in class, it is just as important to realize its use in the context of the Episcopal worship service.

Father Mike and I witnessed the Junior Choir standing proudly with their prayer books, reciting the Nicene Creed together. As the Creed was beginning, the older members of the choir made a point to help the younger members find their places in the prayer book. Even at their young age, these kids recognize the importance of worshipping in community. This is just one example of many of how this service impacts a child's faith formation. This service is truly not one to be missed! Our next “Kids in Church” Sunday will take place on December 16th. I can't wait to worship with you!



Kids in Church Sunday

ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

December

2nd Howard & Cathy Maris

Robert & Alice Lang

9th Dorothy Salter

Doreen & Tom Mayconich

16th Val & Curt Allen



Memorial Flowers

For anyone wishing to remember loved ones at Christmas and, at the same time contribute to the decorating of the Church for Christmas, Altar Guild is accepting donations through Sunday December 16.

Please mail names (or put in mail slot outside parish hall) along with donations to *(checks payable to St. James Altar Guild)*:

Marilyn Hastings

790 Clahor Ave

Collegeville, PA 19426

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".



December 15th: Assorted
(Your Choice)

January 19th: Chocolate Chip

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

CHURCH FAMILY

MOVIE NIGHT

AND ORNAMENT MAKING!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
6:00 - 8:30PM



**SIGN-UPS
REQUESTED,
BUT NOT
REQUIRED.**

ORNAMENTS BEGIN AT 6:00PM
MOVIE ("THE STAR") BEGINS AT 6:30PM

235th Diocesan Convention

Fr. Mike, Deacon Lou and I made an early morning trek to the Cathedral to attend the 235th Convention the Diocese of Pennsylvania. It was an uplifting day of prayer, fellowship and witness as well as attending to the business at hand. A number of resolutions were passed, including the resolution to incorporate and the 2019 budget. Bishop Gutierrez outlined 10 ideas for the upcoming years:

1. The need for a centralized place for gathering information in community.
2. Plant a school in an underserved neighborhood in our Diocese using the model of the St. James School and partnering with Episcopal Academy and Church Farm School and our universities.
3. Through partnerships, create a network of 10 wellness centers in our churches that serve the physical health, building on the work we are already doing.
4. Partner with three agencies and interfaith organizations to effectively address poverty, hunger and violence.
5. Reestablish effective ministry to the shut-ins, the matriarch and patriarchs who have laid the foundation.
6. Plant three Canterbury Houses with one on the Main Line.
7. Establish a chaplaincy program for prison ministry and a renewed dedication toward racial healing.
8. Establishment of a time line for those churches that are closed.
9. Using the model of small house churches, and empowering the laity for leadership, plant 5 churches in 6 years.

Ordain 60 deacons in six years. If we are going to grow, we need to equip our churches for the growth and our sacred presence in the community.

The day also featured musical performances by groups from around the diocese. You can watch some of them on the [DIOPA Facebook page](#).

Deacon Lou and the other deacons within the diocese assembled 250 Blessing Bags for the homeless within the diocese. Deacon Lou brought 20 bags back to our parish to distribute locally.

It was an uplifting experience to gather with so many other Episcopalians from around the diocese to see and hear how we together seek to proclaim the Gospel in the world.

[Please click here for a full recap of the convention.](#)

Phil Tatem
Convention Lay Delegate



Mitten Tree Time!



The yearly Mitten Tree will be set up on Saturday November 24th. Children of the Outreach House ages 17 and under have given us their 3 Christmas gift wishes. Their name, age and gender, along with their gift ideas are written on the Mitten. We want to help them to have a memorable Christmas morning!

1. Choose a Mitten from the tree.
2. Using the code on the “thumb” record your name on the sign-up sheet.
3. Maximum \$50 spent per Mitten
4. Wrap the gift and attach Mitten.
5. Return to church by Wednesday December 12th.

Miscellaneous Mittens!

We want all our Clients to feel special, not just those with children. There are Mittens on the tree that are labeled \$25 Walmart gift card.

Purchase a gift card, attach the Mitten and return to the church by December 12th. We will distribute these to our Seniors, Singles and “Child-free” Clients.

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions,

PLEASE ask Carole Exley

{cell} 610-416-9870



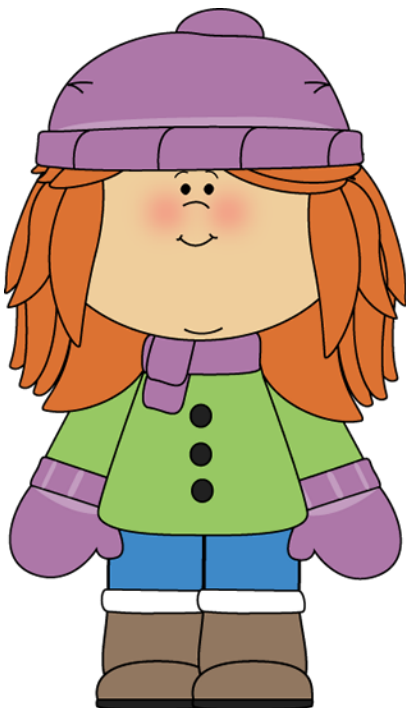
A Thank You Note:

I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work with our Ham & Oyster Dinner. UPDATE: I receive an additional payment of \$15.00 for an eat-in dinner that was not counted - We served 259 dinners, 99 more than last year. We earned \$2003.00 for the Capital Campaign. A special thank you to Patty Torrance for donating the new can opener in the kitchen. I would like to have a meeting to develop a Ham and Oyster committee to plan next year's event. Anyone interested in assisting me with next year's planning please call, text or email me. Again, Thank-you for all your love, support and hard work.

- Ned Travis (610-310-1827)



A Smile is worth a Thousand Words!



A 6 year old little girl came to the Outreach House to shop for food with her Mom. She was quiet and did not make eye contact. She was also wrapped in a blanket to keep warm. She did not have a coat. A volunteer immediately engaged her and swept her off to the clothing room. The next 30 minutes was spent in search of the perfect coat, hat and mittens to keep her warm. She was smiling from ear to ear. She held her head high. She was made to feel special because she IS special. She is wrapped in the love of another person's kindness and generosity. I have always known that we are doing good things, but these moments of Light are pure joy!



Christmas Eve Dinner

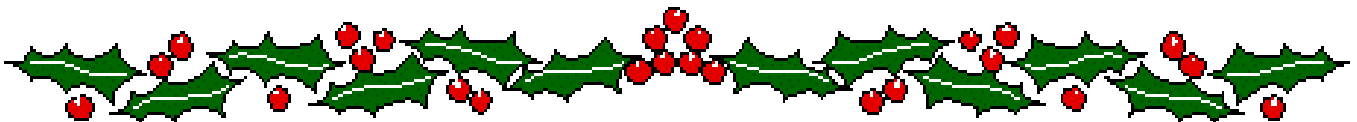
Monday, December 24 at 6PM

Avoid the extra stress of cooking on Christmas Eve and bring your family and guests to join your parish family for this meal right after the 5 PM service.

Turkey, bread, and beverages provided. You bring a dish to pass OR a monetary donation toward the cost of the rest of the meal.

So we have enough turkey and a good balance of dishes, please clip off the coupon below, sign up for the meal, and leave it in the marked box in the church foyer.

Please contact Bob Gannon: 610-331-5400 or rganon@pathcominc.com with any questions.



Christmas Eve Dinner RSVP Coupon

Name _____ Number attending _____

I will bring (check one; please bring enough for 6–8):

Appetizer _____ Salad _____ Vegetable _____ Dessert _____

OR \$ _____ (suggested donation \$3–5 per person, \$15 maximum per family)

Check here if you can help: Set up _____ Clean up _____

My Church Is...

A Place to Get Involved

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!

Acolytes: Assist during worship service at the altar, lead the worship procession with cross and torches; anyone from grade 6 through adult is eligible.

Buildings & Grounds: B&G meets monthly to discuss and prioritize upkeep needs of the church.

Choir (Advanced, Chancel, Junior): We have a variety of music ensembles to fit any level. The Advanced Choir rehearses weekly and processes at the 10 am service. The Chancel Choir rehearses and performs monthly and provides a fun environment to worship. The Junior Choir welcomes youth in Pre-K – 8th grade.

Christian Education & Youth Groups: From teaching classes to taking classes, the Education program provides opportunities for youth and adults to learn more about their faith. Regularly scheduled youth groups provide a time of fellowship for our younger members.

Coffee Hour: Make coffee and provide light refreshments after the 10 am service. Sign up on the bulletin board by the coffee pot for this important ministry of hospitality.

Communications: The Communications Committee assists with internal and external communications to inform both our parishioners and our community of events, activities and worship at St. James'.

Counters: The Counters work as a pair on a rotating schedule every Sunday immediately following the 10 am service to count, organize and record that week's giving.

ECW: All women of the church are automatically members of Episcopal Church Women. We have general meetings throughout the year (2-4) and are involved in all sorts of things around the church.

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.

History Center: Our History Center is located in the building at our cemetery. We occasionally have requests for a tour of the house and the cemetery. It is filled with a cornucopia of information.

Outreach House: Our Outreach House serves local families once a month but is always looking for volunteers. The Outreach House has hours on Tuesdays from 12-2 pm and 6-8 pm; Wednesdays from 9-11 am and Saturdays from 9-11 am. Client Hours are typically the third week of the month.

Parish Life: The Parish Life committee has many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year. They lead some of our annual dinners such as the Chicken BBQ (usually early June) and the Ham & Oyster Dinner (usually early November) as well as the Christmas Luncheon after our Nativity Pageant, and special events to help fellowship throughout the church.

Ushers: Assist with seating, welcoming visitors, and collecting offerings during the 10 am service.

Worship Leaders: Read scripture and prayers and/or administer the Chalice during worship.

For more information on any of these important ministries, please call the office at 610-489-7564 or email at office@stjames-episcopal.org