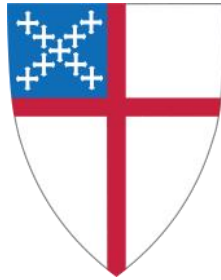




The Epistle

June, July, August
2019



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Saints of St. James',

As I pen this letter to you, we have just had our wonderful Annual Meeting and are getting ready to honor those who have worked in our Church School program for the program year 2018-2019. We are winding down and looking forward to the rest and vacation that the Summer will bring. At the Annual Meeting, our Rector's Warden, Mr. Drew Beck reminded us that we are Growing, we are Grateful, and we are Blessed! We continue to see new faces come and join our community! We are grateful for those who have donated monies from their estates to St. James' and we are Blessed to be able to serve God in this community through the ministries and outreach programs of our Church. Growing - Grateful - Blessed! These, I believe, should be the hallmarks of all faithful Christians and I am extremely proud to be your Rector and Pastor of such an amazing congregation where all three of these attributes are manifested! We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to look forward to! Sometime this Summer we will move into our new Outreach House facility. I am looking forward to the dedication and celebration of that ministry's new home. We still have work to accomplish. We still need to upgrade our electrical wiring here in the Church as well as install new HVAC units to replace the old window AC units that are hurting our old wooden windows. We are making plans to revitalize the balcony in our sanctuary that would allow for 60 seats in which people could see the Altar and Choir during service. Currently, there is no visual of the Eucharist celebration unless you are seated in the first row. We need to paint the Church both inside and outside. There is lots to do! There will always be a lot to do to maintain an historical structure. I can tell you that your Vestry is ready and needs your financial support to accomplish the work that needs to be done. If you have not yet participated in our Capital Campaign, then I encourage you to do so. The task before us is daunting but, I believe we are up to it! We are Blessed by the work we have accomplished to this point and we look forward to the work that needs to be done in the future. May God continue to bless us with new members! May God remind us to be ever Grateful and may we be a Blessing to all who come into our midst and to all we meet. Amen!

Yours in Christ, **Fr. Mike+**

Rector

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

Vestry

- ◆ Drew Beck, Rector's Warden
610-304-9017
- ◆ Joanne Tatem, People's Warden
610-631-2488
- ◆ Jon Yenney, Vestry Secretary
610-454-0179

Buildings & Grounds

- ◆ Gene Goff 610-489-0765
- ◆ Steve Jackson 610-831-1987

Communications

- ◆ Drew Beck 610-304-9017

Education

- ◆ Fr. Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Finance

- ◆ Josh Ilgen 610-454-1230

Outreach Ministries

- ◆ Peggy Spinozzi 610-489-1739

Parish Life

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

Member Ministries

- ◆ Bill Kilgour 610-290-6338

Vestry at Large

- ◆ Sarah Deacle 215-292-8627
- ◆ Patty Earhart 610-489-3023
- ◆ Marilyn Hastings 610-489-9728

Epistle Editor

- ◆ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564



Outreach House

A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church

It is Almost Time!!!!!!

The brand-new Outreach House is expected to be done in July/August. The excitement is real, and we are looking forward to the wonderful new building. We can picture Clients shopping in a bright and open space. We see volunteers working happily in the new household room as they put items on the shelves.

Oops.... We forgot one thing..... we need to move all the items from the old Outreach House into the new one!

Do you remember Hands Across America? In May of 1986, approximately 6.5 million people held hands in an attempt to form a continuous human chain across the United States. The event raised about 15 million dollars to fight hunger.

"Hands Across St. James" will be a slightly similar event. Let's come together as a community and move bags of groceries across the yard from one building to another. (We will also be moving clothing, household items, toys and shelving via trucks/vehicles and boxes.) We know that we make a difference to our neighbors in need as we help to fight hunger. How many of us can come together on one day --- young and young at heart --- to celebrate our blessings?

We do not have a date for this event. First, we need a completed building. We will let you know as soon as we are able. It will be a day not to be missed!



Hands Across St. James'

OUTREACH HOUSE UPDATE...



PROGRESS,
PROGRESS,
PROGRESS!



Completion Date: All systems go for mid-late July

Permanent Address: 147 Evansburg Road, Collegeville PA

Grand Opening: Watch Happenings – Sunday Bulletin – September Epistle for
Opening Celebration announcement

NOT YET PART OF THE EXCITEMENT - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!
PICK UP A PLEDGE CARD ON THE TABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE!



Capital Campaign – Creative Giving

Giving from one's income is often the primary response to contributing to stewardship campaigns like St James' Capital Campaign. In addition to giving income, you can convert non-cash items into cash donations to give to the campaign, or you can donate those non-cash items directly to the campaign.

How do you know what the item is worth? Well, coming Saturday, June 22, 2019, St. James' Capital Campaign will be hosting a visiting appraiser to help place a dollar amount on your non-cash gift.

Items/gifts like stamps, coins, comic books, baseball cards, sports memorabilia, jewelry, antiques, art works, old toys, musical instruments, and other collectibles can be appraised on June 22, 2019, in Platt's Hall, 9 until 3:30.

Plan to bring these items to our "ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW", St. James Style. You will need to reserve a time for Saturday, June 22, 2019, 9-3:30. To reserve your place you must watch all our social media as well the church's Bulletin for sign up directions.

St. James' Episcopal Church Capital Campaign – Creative Giving

SAVE THE DATE AND SAVE YOUR PLACE for JUNE 22

[] I'm interested in participating in the appraisal, The St. James' Roadshow, on Saturday, June 22, in Platts Hall from 9-3:30.

I have submitted my \$10 check (payable to St. James') in collection box with this form (please put "appraisal" on memo line).

NAME _____ CHECK # _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE () -

TEAR OFF AND PLACE IN COLLECTION BOX LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

Pick up your copy today!

A color copy of the St. James' Directory is now available for each household in Platts' Hall.

Please take the copy with your family label (adhered to the back cover). As we continue to experience amazing growth, we will offer directory photos quarterly.

If you would like to have your own photo added, please send your .pdf picture to office@stjames-episcopal.org. We will print newcomer sheets periodically and make them available to add to your directories.



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving others



Directory



THE GOOD BOOK CLUB



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 selection for the final meeting held on June 10th is *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah

All are welcome!

A new Yoga class at St. James'!

Parishoner, Sally Wong is offering a 6 week summer series Yoga class. Classes will be held on Friday afternoons from 4:30PM to 5:30PM in Platts Hall. Dates included are June 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 12 and 19th. This is a gentle/slow flow class; no experience necessary. Classes are free but donations are welcomed. All donations collected will be used to help fund the Outreach House.

Questions? Please contact Sally at sally-anne5@verizon.net or 215-815-1268.



Next Epistle Submission is August 15

Committee leaders please send in your communication forms to the office

office@stjames-episcopal.org

for review and inclusion in the September Edition of the Epistle by August 15th.



Journey Beyond Confirmation: A Snapshot of Chalice Year

Here is a snapshot of what our students learned this year! Our curriculum runs on a 3-year cycle and this year focused on Eucharist and worshipping in community. When we return to this theme in three years, each student will progress and can explore the theme in a more complex and exciting way! I can't wait to see how each of our students will grow in their faith and make their own journey beyond confirmation!

Pre-K - 1st Grade

- Unit 1: "Noah" and "Moses"
- Unit 2: Parables remind us that Jesus will always find us, rejoice with us, and call us by name
- Unit 3: We come together as a family to share Eucharist together
- Unit 4: There are many types of prayer that bring us together as a one community



2nd - 5th Grade

- Unit 1: God works through many unlikely people, such as the Judges and Kings of the Old Testament
- Unit 2: God shows us how to treat others through parables
- Unit 3: The Eucharist connects us to the past, present, and future church
- Unit 4: Navigating the Prayer Book and recognizing its importance to our faith



9th - 12th Grade

- Students and Teachers work together to continue the learning
- Students are able to choose confirmation for themselves at an appropriate time
- Students remain committed to class to continue "in the apostles teaching, the fellowship, and in the prayers"



6th - 8th Grade

- Unit 1: Following Christ isn't easy, as those in the Gospels would tell you
- Unit 2: Navigating the world as a new covenant disciple
- Unit 3: How the church was built in the New Testament and how we build it today
- Unit 4: Finding and defining your personal spiritual life



Confirmation

- Affirmation of their Baptismal Vows and an indication that they are ready to assume responsibility for their own journey of faith



Beyond Confirmation

- With God's help, a continued commitment to living out the Baptismal Covenant, armed with a strong foundation of knowledge of faith and a loving community to lean on

Summer = The Secret to a Well-Rounded Church School Year!

Did you know that the learning does not stop during the summer? Our curriculum may end, but a lot of learning takes place during the worship service. Throughout the year, our Primary age students practiced the actions of worship (singing, praying, passing the peace, and even learning about Eucharist!) The Elementary students became experts at the Book of Common Prayer and discovered how they can participate in the service for themselves. The Middle School and High School students learned about the history of our faith and discovered how participating in worship connects them to the past, present, and future of our church. The summer is a great time to put all of these principles into action! Youth are ALWAYS invited (and in fact, expected!) to join in the worship service. Why? Because we are a community of all ages!

If you are worried about wiggles and joyful noise, please rest assured - all are welcome! Children participate in their own way and in their own time. Here's a quick story - at our recent "Kids in Church Sunday" our Primary age students were wiggly often, joyful always, reverent when they could be, and happy to be there! At one point, they were playing hide-a-way from Fr. Mike behind the pew. Did that take away from their worship experience? Absolutely not! They were happy to be in church and could feel the love of the community!

The summer is a great time to take advantage of all three available worship times. You can always find a service to fit your schedule! Since Church School is scheduled at 10am, families don't often have the opportunity to come to the 5pm Saturday service or 8am Sunday service. Please rest assured - families are welcome at all services!

I hope everyone has a restful, relaxing, and worship-filled summer! I look forward to seeing you back for our first day of Church School on Sunday, September 8th, 2019!

Thank You!

Thank You to Our 2018 - 2019 Church School Team!

Thank you to our amazing team of teachers and substitutes: Jill Bregovi, Karen Charpentier, Catherine McElroy, Jeannine Pinault, Wendy Wezner, Christina Ilgen, Betsy Springuel, Laura Wingerter, Sarah Deacle, Bill Kilgour, Manny Soares, Erica Ellison, Tammy Campli, and Liz Schofield.

Our outstanding teachers were honored at the annual Education Celebration on May 19th. They received an art print of the "Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi" as well as a monetary gift, in gratitude of their service. We could not have our Christian Education program without their hard work, dedication, and willingness to serve each week. They have served with kindness, love, and joy and I am grateful for them all! Have a wonderful summer of rest and relaxation!



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving others



TAKE A SHOT. ENTER OUR SUMMER YOUTH CONTEST:

WHAT ST. JAMES' MEANS TO ME

Calling all St. James' Youth ages 6 to 18: now is your chance to showcase your Creative Voice. Make a short video (1 minute or less) telling us what St. James' means to you. You can take video of your favorite activity, show the church through an artistic point of view, recite a speech, put pictures to music, and so much more. Your imagination is the limit!

Please submit your entry no later than **Friday, August 30th** by sending your completed video to office@stjames-episcopal.org.

Winners for each age category will be recognized during our "Back to Church School Sunday" on September 8th.

Age Group Categories include:

6 to 8 years old (Single photos and drawings accepted for this age group. Please email as a jpeg or pdf file)

9 to 12 years old 13 to 15 years old 16 to 18 years old

Show everyone what St. James' means to you!

Be a Church School Teacher!

Are you looking for a way to grow in your own faith and serve the church at the same time? Look no further - become a church school teacher! Many people think that you need to be a teacher or have teaching experience to volunteer. In fact, all you need is a love of Christ and a willingness to follow a lesson plan! Yes, it is 100% true - the lesson plans are already written, the supplies are provided, and all that is required is your passion for sharing the love of God with the children and youth of St. James'!

We have four classes - Primary, Elementary, Middle School, and High School - and each class uses a teaching team of three members. Each teacher brings a different perspective and a different level of teaching experience and knowledge of faith. If you are unsure if being a lead teacher is right for you, join us as a support teacher or a substitute teacher. All are welcome! If you are interested in being a teacher, please fill out the interest form found here: <https://forms.gle/RquAN7RabHWD8wJm7>

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Save the Dates!

6th - 12th Grade Youth Events!

September 8, 2019	Dinner Church - St. Andrews, Glenmoore (5 - 7pm)
October 12, 2019	National Acolyte Festival (All Day)
November 10, 2019	Dinner Church - Valley Forge Deanery (5 - 7pm)
December 7, 2019	Bishop's Ball (TBD)
January 20, 2020	MLK Service Day (10am - 3pm)
February 7 - 9, 2020	Happening Weekend Retreat (High School Only)
April 19, 2020	Dinner Church - St. Anne's, Abbington (5 - 7pm)
May 16 - 17, 2020	New Beginnings Retreat (Middle School Only)
May 30 - 31, 2020	Racial Reconciliation Retreat

Stay connected! Stay informed! Advertise your events! Get the word out! Here at St. James' we strive every day to communicate all of the good being done. Please make sure you are using the tools offered to not only advertise your event/meeting/committee but also to know what's going on at your church. We have an up-to-date website (www.stjames-episcopal.org); a weekly email with current events called *Happenings* (sign up button located on our website under the tab "About Us—Publications"); Facebook (@StJamesEpisc) and YouTube (link on home page of website).



It's good to be "in the know"!

HISTORY WEEKEND

Saturday, July 27: 4:00-5:00 & 6:00 PM

Sunday July 28: following 10:00 AM worship

Celebrate the Feast of our namesake

St. James the Apostle

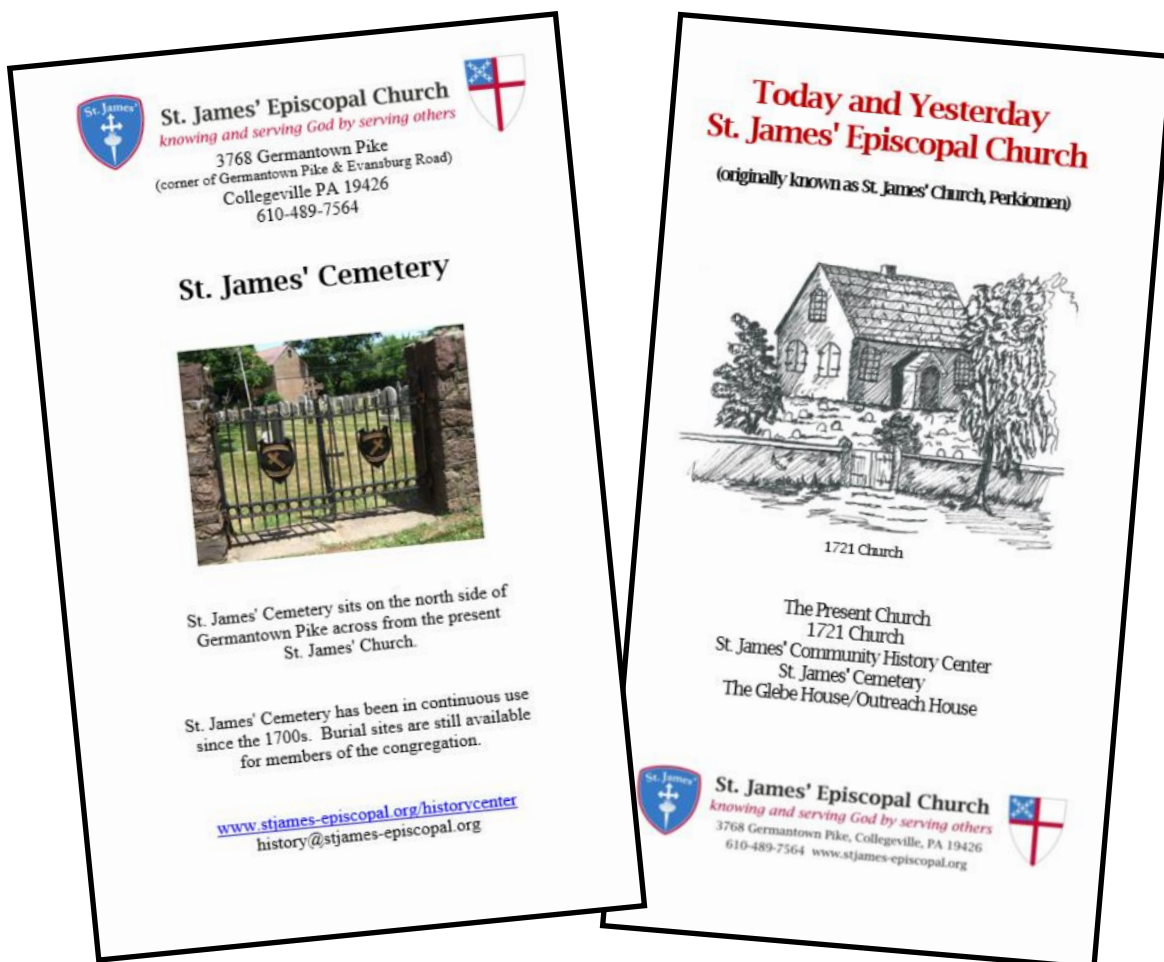
Celebrate more than 300 years of worship and service at St. James' Church

Featuring tours of St. James' Community History Center,

St. James Cemetery, St. James' sanctuary,

parish hall displays.

If you are interested in participating in planning or participating as a guide, please contact Barbara Bateman at bebateman@verizon.net or call 610-246-6753



Stop by the foyer at St. James' to pick up a copy of "Today and Yesterday St. James' Episcopal Church" and "St. James' Cemetery" and learn a little more about the history of St. James'!

Still Need to Give to the Campaign?

Complete a Commitment Card TODAY!

**Haven't Given to
the Capital
Campaign?**

DONATE NOW!

**We still need
your help!**



Growing TO SERVE

COMMITMENT CARD

Understanding that all (I/we) possess is a gift from God, (I/we) rejoice in the privilege to participate in the Growing to Serve campaign.

(MY/OUR) COMMITMENT IS

\$ _____ Weekly x 156 weeks or

\$ _____ Monthly x 36 months or

\$ _____ As follows

\$ _____ Total

DESCRIPTION OF GIFT
(Only for persons making commitments other than cash)

\$ _____ Approximate value of gift

\$ _____ Total

TOTAL COMMITTED

\$ _____

(I/We) will begin (my/our) gifts on _____

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

SIGNATURE(S) _____

NOTE: This is a statement of intent which you may change as circumstances warrant.

Creative GIVING

Even a small gift, given regularly, can add up to a substantial donation over time. Get creative - defer major purchases, hold a garage sale, get the children involved with extra chores around the house, reduce spending, give your tax refund. It's a great way to involve your whole family in the joy of giving something that matters, and has a lasting impact.

Our office is available to discuss gifts of stocks, bonds, and other assets. All gifts are tax deductible.

Typical Commitments You Can Make Over 156-Week Period

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$2000	\$8,667	\$104,000	\$312,000
\$1000	\$4,333	\$52,000	\$156,000
\$500	\$2,167	\$26,000	\$78,000
\$300	\$1,300	\$15,600	\$46,800
\$100	\$433	\$5,200	\$15,600
\$75	\$325	\$3,900	\$11,700
\$60	\$260	\$3,120	\$9,360
\$50	\$217	\$2,600	\$7,800
\$40	\$173	\$2,080	\$6,240
\$30	\$130	\$1,560	\$4,680
\$25	\$108	\$1,300	\$3,900
\$20	\$87	\$1,040	\$3,120
\$15	\$65	\$780	\$2,340
\$10	\$43	\$520	\$1,560



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving others
3268 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-7364 www.stjamesepiscopal.org



Still need to pledge to the campaign? **DONATE TODAY!**

Already pledged? **ACCELERATE YOUR GIVING!**

Have alternative gifts to donate? **PARTICIPATE IN OUR UPCOMING
CREATIVE GIFTS EVENTS!**

*Capital Campaign Pledge cards are available on the
small table in the church foyer.*



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