



# St. James' Episcopal Church

*knowing and serving God by serving others*



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## Education Epistle: 2019 — 2020

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### Welcome to the St. James' Education Program!

We are glad you are here! This Epistle will give you all the information you need to join in the fun, fellowship, and learning that goes on throughout the year here at St. James'.

Make no mistake about it, Christian Education is *important*. As you know, living a faith-centered life brings with it community, assurance, purpose, acceptance, and a desire and opportunity to serve others (as well as numerous other benefits that, if I had to list here, would surely take up too much space!) By forming a strong foundation of faith when they are young, children are much more likely to reap the benefits of a faith centered life as an adult.

This Epistle will give you information about available classes, fellowship events, and service opportunities for youth and adults. **Be sure to check out the "What's New?" section, current lesson schedule, and calendars to discover what's ahead for this year.**

**After reading about all of the exciting events ahead, don't forget to register for classes! Visit [stjames-episcopal.org/education](http://stjames-episcopal.org/education) to register today! See page 16 for more details.**

### About St. James' Education Program

The Education program at St. James' Episcopal Church includes programs for children, youth, and adults. The programs offered range from formal education to service to fellowship, as we feel that all three of these areas are important for spiritual formation.

Formal instruction is imperative at all stages of life, child through adult. 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, whether at FUEL (K–5th grade) or at Diocesan Youth Events (6th–12th.) Geared for their age, these groups provide a fun, safe environment for youth to learn about God and each other.

## A Message from Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards

### “The NEED For Christian Education”

Today we live in a secular world where all references to scripture has been pretty much scrubbed from our daily lives! To make matters worse, what people know about the bible is appalling and many of the things that are attributed to the bible is false. The following are some examples of biblical illiteracy from a recent Gallop poll:

- ⇒ Fewer than ½ of all adults in the United States can name all four Gospels
- ⇒ Only 40% of adults can name more than 5 of the ten commandments
- ⇒ **82% of Americans think the quote “God helps those who help themselves” is in the bible (It is a quote from Ben Franklin)**
- ⇒ **A staggering number of people attributed the “Sermon on the Mount” to the evangelist Billy Graham**
- ⇒ Over 70% of high school students thought that Joan of Arc was married to Noah

The problem with biblical illiteracy is also rampant among the people that are reporting our news and making commentary on religious matters. In April of 2018 the reputable Wall Street Journal ran an article where they misquoted prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu as saying ““Moses brought water from Iraq.” What the prime minister actually said was that Moses “brought water from a rock,” a reference to either Exodus 17 or Numbers 20. Although this could be attributed to the pronunciation of Iraq it still goes to show the relative ignorance of those covering the prime minister. The following is a disturbing example from NPR:

A piece on Pope Francis at NPR’s “Two Way” blog described Easter as “the day celebrating the idea that Jesus did not die and go to hell or purgatory or anywhere at all, but rather arose into heaven...”

What are they even talking about? If you don’t know that Easter is the day Christians celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection, and that this is the most basic belief of the world’s largest religion, then readers and listeners could justly ask what business does NPR have reporting on religion, at all.

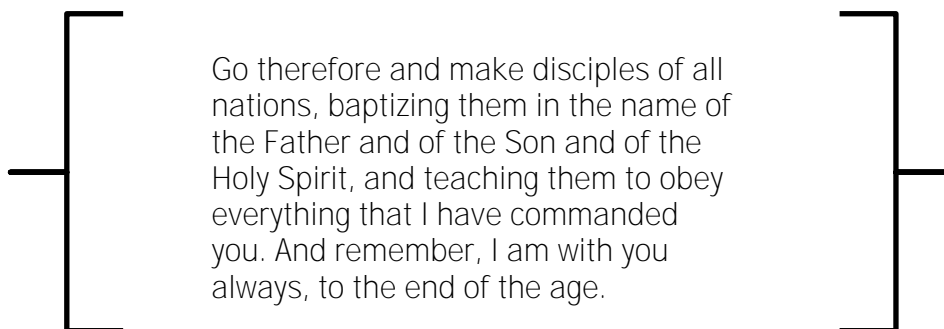
The fact that those who influence public opinion can talk about something they know nothing about astounds me. The following is from a commentary from NBC’s Chuck Todd who tweeted out this about Good Friday:

“I’m a bit hokey when it comes to ‘Good Friday.’ I don’t mean disrespect to the religious aspect of the day, but I love the idea of reminding folks that any day can become ‘good,’ all it takes is a little selflessness on our own part. Works EVERY time.”

Just imagine if he would have said something so inappropriate about Islam or Judaism. The reason he can get away with this is that most Christian Americans are biblically illiterate.

**Although all of this is disconcerting and disheartening, the fact that Christians themselves don't read and know their sacred scriptures is disappointing.** In the same Gallop poll that I referred to earlier, the researchers came to the startling conclusion that Americans revere the bible but, don't read it.

At the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples to:



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**How can you make disciples if you don't know what disciples believe? How can you obey the teaching of the Church if you don't know what they are?**

**In my over 6 years as your Rector here at St. James' I have had limited success with getting people to participate in Christian Education.** Our new Christian Education Coordinator, Lauren Exley, has started to correct the fact that our children could be in Church School for years and not know the basic tenants of our faith. The curriculum that we are now using tells the biblical stories as well as emphasizing the basic components of our Anglican Heritage. **All of us took a vow at our baptism to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers. Are we going to ignore this commitment or are we going to take steps to learn what is the apostles' teaching?"**

Please take inventory of your spiritual life and see what is amiss when it comes to biblical illiteracy. Take advantage of the Wednesday night adult bible studies as well as the Thursday morning Christ and Coffee offerings at 11:00 am. I am more that willing to teach more classes if the commitment is there. Parents ensure that your children attend Church School so that they will have a good foundation of our faith. Knowing more about the bible and the principles of our faith can make us better disciples in the world and allow us to bring others to Christ. That is what God has called us to do! That is what we have promised!

In Faith,

The Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards

## What's New? Read all about the exciting 2019–2020 school year!

- ⇒ There are now **THREE** Wednesday Night Sessions offered throughout the year! Take a look on page 8 and choose one, two, or all three to have an amazing year of Adult Ed!
- ⇒ Youth **3rd–12th Grade** are invited to join the **first ever Youth Media Club!** We're searching for creative photographers and videographers who can create a variety of content for social media and the website. More details on page 10!
- ⇒ **6th–12th Graders** are participating in **DIOPA Youth Events!** Get ready for lots of fun like the **Bishop's Ball, the National Acolyte Festival, MLK Service Day, a weekend retreat,** and more! See page 12 for more details!
- ⇒ There is a new Quiet Corner Activity Space conveniently located in the Sanctuary! Stocked with a few toys, coloring books, pillows, books, and even a pretend communion set, this space is sure to be a hit with kids of all ages. Check it out next Sunday!
- ⇒ **Announcing Pilgrimage 2020! St. James' is returning to London in Summer 2020!** All confirmed students who will be in 10th–12th Grade in the 2020–2021 school year are eligible to attend pilgrimage. Our *next* Pilgrimage will be Summer 2023, so start planning ahead! More details are on page 13!

## Meet Lauren Exley! The Director of Education and Music



Hey, I'm Lauren and I'm the full-time Director of Education and Music. (Translation: I do a lot of different stuff.) When you see me, I'm usually leading a youth group or rehearsal, playing the organ, or standing up and making announcements go just a bit longer. During the week I'm writing curriculum, preparing for an upcoming event, editing video content, and generally loving the church life.

No kids yet, but I have the most adorable puppy named Maggie. (She's 3.5 years old now but she will always be a puppy to me!) She's quite a handful all by herself. My two favorite places in the world are Mirror Lake, New Hampshire and Walt Disney World. (Yes, I will help you plan your trip if you bring me back a cookie!) I don't like bacon. Favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate cookie dough. Ravenclaw for life. (If you don't know what Ravenclaw is, please see me. We need to educate you ASAP.) I also love table top board games and enjoying time with friends.

My goal as the Director of Education is to design a program that encourages life-long participation as an active member of the Episcopal church. Our curriculum provides not only a solid foundation, but solid connections between the students and the community. Youth should feel connected to the church and as you discover more about our program, that is just what you will find! Let's have a fantastic year!

*If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at [education@stjames-episcopal.org](mailto: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!**

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### Nursery Care (Birth – 3 years)

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

*All parents, students, and teachers will*

*gather together at the start of the 10:00am service.*

**Platt's Hall.**

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### Primary (Pre-Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

Children explore biblical stories and Episcopal traditions in a welcoming way. Classes follow a predictable pattern (Gathering, Storytelling, Engaging, and Closing) and are designed to be interactive.

*We will all sing the opening hymn, with a dismissal of the church school at its conclusion.*

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### Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Children engage biblical stories, Episcopal traditions, and the worship service. Building on the foundation set in their primary years, children continue hearing the great stories of the bible. Children interact with the materials used in worship (Bible, Book of Common Prayer, and Hymnal) to prepare for their eventual understanding of the Episcopal service.

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### Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### High School (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

*\*MS and HS students are encouraged to join a church ministry (Acolyte, Altar Guild, Music, etc.) in addition to coming to classes. Altar acolytes, crucifers, and torch bearers can participate in the processional, attend class, and continue serving as usual after returning.*

**Church School begins September 8th.**

**Please register by September 1st!**

**Visit [stjames-episcopal.org/education](http://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 3 (Cross Year) of our curriculum rotation! 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 and theology 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 (Baptism, Eucharist, or Worship), ensuring that students are exposed to a wide array of topics during their time in class. You can find unit topics and lesson titles for the current year on the following page.

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***Keep an eye out for updates in the “Education Corner” of the weekly service bulletin. Check-in regularly with up-to-date lesson plan topics, schedules, and announcements.***

**More about each class...** Starting in Pre-Kindergarten, children will begin learning responses 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. This year begins with the stories of Ruth and David, showing the trust that they had in the Lord. As the students progress through the year, they will learn how Jesus is a teacher and when we come to church, we are reminded to love others through worship! The year ends with a reminder that we can worship God in many ways, at many times, and with many songs!

**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. This year begins with stories from the Old Testament, showing the faithfulness of the characters. After studying Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule, and the importance of all people as ministers throughout Units 2 and 3, the students will see how the church worships and serves together to share the love of God. In Unit 4, students will understand more of their own history, as they study the history of the Anglican church.

**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*. This year, students will connect their study of scripture to a variety of public figures and examples of Christian living throughout history and present day. These public figures will act as a springboard for further discussion and activity that will challenge the youth to live lives centered around Christian principles. Units 1, 2, and 3 also conclude with lessons from The Basic Series, a resource that introduces basic principles of the Episcopal Church. Unit 4 provides a unique opportunity to follow The Way of Love, a resource produced by the national Episcopal Church and promoted by Bishop Michael Curry. This series is sure to change the heart, mind, and soul for a new outlook on yourself, Christ and the world.

**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

### This year's theme is Cross Year: WORSHIP!

As you look through the lesson titles, notice how they correspond to the theme of worship: How does our worship of God recognize God's presence in our lives? How does our worship of God show God's love for us? How is love an act of worship? How does our worship space reflect our church's history? How does our worship space facilitate the service? How do the people of God influence worship? Does worship happen only in a church? How do lay people worship God through their actions?

Let's WORSHIP together this year!

#### Primary Class

##### Unit 1: Shepherd

- ⇒ Ruth Followed God
- ⇒ We Remember Ruth
- ⇒ Young David Was A Shepherd
- ⇒ David Defeated A Giant
- ⇒ David Wrote Psalms
- ⇒ David Became King

##### Unit 2: Jesus: Teacher

- ⇒ Angels Bear Messages
- ⇒ The Angel Gabriel Visited Mary
- ⇒ Jesus is Given His Name
- ⇒ Jesus Taught Many People
- ⇒ Jesus Teaches Us to Trust God
- ⇒ Jesus Teaches Us to Love Others

##### Unit 3: Worship: Environment

- ⇒ The Cross in Our Church
- ⇒ The Altar Is a Holy Table
- ⇒ Pulpit and Font
- ⇒ Candles Remind Us of Jesus
- ⇒ Things of Beauty
- ⇒ Hosanna!
- ⇒ Holy Week
- ⇒ Alleluia! Alleluia!

##### Unit 4: The Church Sings

- ⇒ God Gives Us Music
- ⇒ We Sing of God in the Morning
- ⇒ We Sing of God All Day
- ⇒ We Sing of God in the Evening
- ⇒ We Sing Our Praise to God
- ⇒ We Sing Our Praise to Jesus Christ
- ⇒ We Sing About Loving God
- ⇒ We Sing About Loving Others
- ⇒ The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

#### Elementary Class

##### Unit 1: Stories

- ⇒ Amos
- ⇒ Isaiah
- ⇒ Daniel
- ⇒ Elijah
- ⇒ Jonah
- ⇒ Esther

##### Unit 2: Sermon on the Mount

- ⇒ Jesus Taught the People
- ⇒ Jesus Taught about Peace
- ⇒ Jesus Taught Us to Pray
- ⇒ Jesus Asks Us to Live Faithfully
- ⇒ Jesus Gave a Golden Rule
- ⇒ The Great Commandment

##### Unit 3: Worship: People in Community

- ⇒ We Are All Ministers
- ⇒ Bishops Are Like Shepherds
- ⇒ **Priests Serve God's People**
- ⇒ **Deacons Serve God's People**
- ⇒ Many People Serve in Our Church
- ⇒ We Observe Lent
- ⇒ **Jesus' Last Week**
- ⇒ The Church Worships the Risen Lord

##### Unit 4: Church History

- ⇒ Creeds: Defining Our Beliefs
- ⇒ **The Church's Worship Takes Form**
- ⇒ **The Church's Reformation**
- ⇒ The Bible Is For All
- ⇒ The Church Came to America
- ⇒ Missionaries Are Sent Out
- ⇒ The Church Acts in Society
- ⇒ **Christian's Struggle for Unity**
- ⇒ We Celebrate Pentecost

#### Middle School Class

##### Unit 1: Called Through Faith

- ⇒ Robert Raikes: Teaching the Gospel
- ⇒ Amy Carmichael: Saving the Poor
- ⇒ Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Facing Evil
- ⇒ Oscar Romero: Taking a Stand
- ⇒ Confirmation: Renewing Promises
- ⇒ **Ordination: God's Call**

##### Unit 2: People of the Promise

- ⇒ Absalom Jones: Courage to be Free
- ⇒ Thomas Gallaudet: Apostle to the Deaf
- ⇒ William Muhlenberg: Compassion for the Poor
- ⇒ Florence Nightingale: Nursing the Sick
- ⇒ Reconciliation: **God's Forgiveness**
- ⇒ Healing: Anointing the Sick

##### Unit 3: Witnesses in the World

- ⇒ Clare of Assisi: Simplifying Life
- ⇒ Terry Waite: Captive for Christ
- ⇒ Taizé: Unity and Reconciliation
- ⇒ Le Chambon: Helping Strangers
- ⇒ Desmond Tutu: Fighting Racism
- ⇒ **L'Arche:** Welcoming the Disabled
- ⇒ Eucharist: Jesus Comes
- ⇒ Eucharist: Bread of Life

##### Unit 4: The Way of Love (Combined Middle and High School)

- ⇒ Session 1: Rule of Life
- ⇒ Session 2: Turn
- ⇒ Session 3: Learn
- ⇒ Session 4: Pray
- ⇒ Session 5: Worship
- ⇒ Session 6: Bless
- ⇒ Session 7: Go
- ⇒ Session 8: Rest
- ⇒ Session 9: Living the Way of Love

## Adult Education Programs

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, one on Wednesday night and one on Thursday morning, so you are sure to find one to fit your schedule. We look forward to learning with you!

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All Wednesday Night Programs are scheduled from 6:30–8:00pm

### Wednesday Night Program—Session 1

#### *Disciple Bible Study: Gospel of John through the Book of Revelation*

Instructor: Rev. Deacon Lou Steffenhagen

September 11th–December 11th (13 sessions)

*Disciple* is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. The class finished its study of the Old Testament last program year and began exploring the New Testament. We will begin this year with the Gospel of John. New members to the class will receive photocopies of the worksheets from the *Disciple* workbook and do not need to purchase a copy of the workbook. Bring any NRSV bible or one will be provided!

### Wednesday Night Program—Session 2

#### *The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus—Centered Life*

Instructor: Lauren Exley

December 18th–February 12th (7 sessions)

In his introduction to *The Way of Love*, Bishop Curry asks the question “How can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?” *The Way of Love* is an intentional commitment to a set of practices designed to help you answer that very question. Together, we will explore the spiritual practices of Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. Class will consist of discussion, personal reflection, prayer, and worship.

### Wednesday Night Program—Session 3

#### *Rector's Forum*

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards

April 15th– May 13th (5 sessions)

Ever wish you could just sit around and have a great theological discussion with Fr. Mike and the fellow members of your congregation? Well, here is your chance! Join us for “Rector's Forum”. Fr. Mike will lead informal discussions on the following topics:

1. “How Are We Saved?”
2. “Baptism and It's Importance Today
3. “The Relationship Between Science and Theology”
4. “The Theology of Creation”
5. “The Role of Christian Ethics in Law and Order”

No prior knowledge is necessary and you can attend forum topics as your schedule allows. Join us for wonderful conversations of faith to learn and fellowship together.



## Join us for Christ and Coffee

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



### 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

*Open to all 10th Grade—Adult*

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards

Sundays beginning January 5th, 2020 from 9:15—9:45am (7 sessions)

*All will be Confirmed or Received by Bishop Gutierrez on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00pm.*

**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 (10th 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](mailto:education@stjames-episcopal.org))

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### 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](mailto:education@stjames-episcopal.org))

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### Youth Media Club (3rd—12th Grade)

Calling all videographers, photographers, content creators, and writers galore! This is your opportunity to **be apart of St. James' social media presence! Participation in the Youth Media Club is very easy and you** can be as involved as your schedule allows. Tasks include photographing classes and events, creating video content, and writing Epistle articles. All equipment is provided! All we ask is that you attend at least one of the training sessions offered throughout the year. The first one is scheduled for September 15th at 9:30am in the downstairs classroom area.

Contact: Lisa Reinhardt ([office@stjames-episcopal.org](mailto:office@stjames-episcopal.org)) or Lauren Exley ([education@stjames-episcopal.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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!

## FUEL Youth Group

Available for K–5th 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 youth group!**

**FUEL** is a youth group just for Kindergarten–5th Grade kids. We meet monthly on Sundays from 4:00–5:30pm. Each evening will consist of a game, craft, snack, bible story, and **FUN! Friends outside of St. James' are always welcome!**

*The first meeting of FUEL will be on Sunday 9/22 from 4:00–5:30pm.*

Permission forms are required for ALL Youth Fellowship participants. This form must be completed each year. Please print and complete the Youth Event Permission Form and Covenant found at <https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/forms-resources/>

## DIOPA Youth Events: 6th–12th Grade

This year, all 6th–12th grade students have the opportunity to participate in Diocesan youth events! There is an event scheduled just about every month so you are sure to find something to fit your schedule. **Dinner Church** is a great event where youth from around the Diocese get together at a diocese church for dinner, and the adults are **NOT** allowed to talk. Sounds perfect, right? We'll also be headed to D.C. for the **National Acolyte Festival** (so if you aren't an acolyte yet, you might want to volunteer now!), enjoying a night out at the **Bishop's Ball**, going down to Maryland or a **weekend retreat called Happening** (just for High School), another retreat called **New Beginnings** (just for Middle School), and more! **It's going to be a great year, so check out the schedule and save the dates on your calendar now!**

*The first Dinner Church will be held on Sunday, 9/8 from 5:00–7:00pm @ St. Andrews Glenmoore. We will arrange a carpool from St. James' leaving at 4:15pm and returning approximately 7:30pm. Please sign-up on the sheet located on the youth bulletin board!*

## Pilgrimage Summer 2020



**Who:** Confirmed 10th–12th Graders (as of the 2020–2021 school year)

**What:** A spiritual journey to discover connections of our Anglican heritage, deepen our faith, become more connected as a body of Christ, and return refreshed, ready to live out our Baptismal Covenant here in Collegeville, PA

**Where:** London, England

**When:** Summer 2020

**Why not a mission trip?** Mission trips absolutely have their place and they do serve a wonderful purpose. However, the goal of a pilgrimage is different. Many of our youth have **spent a lifetime learning about their faith right here in Collegeville, PA. St. James' is their spiritual home.** It is comfortable, familiar, and feels very routine. A pilgrimage at this pivotal age will challenge these young adults to become independent in their spiritual lives. Our goal is that they return ready to continue in the apostles teaching and the prayers on their own terms and of their own choice, both while at home and once they head off to college.

**Who pays?** Costs for Pilgrimage are split between the Pilgrimage fund (a budgeted line item that includes carried over funds from past fundraisers), money fundraised directly by the attendees this program year, and additional out-of-pocket costs.

**When will the next Pilgrimage be scheduled?** I love that you are thinking ahead! We are now on an official 3-year rotation for Pilgrimage! The next Pilgrimage will be scheduled for Summer 2023 and at that point, all confirmed 10th–12th graders (as of the 2023–2024 school year) will be eligible to attend!

**Where can I get more information?** Our first meeting is scheduled for *September 8th at 9:15am downstairs!* Come get questions answered about what pilgrimage is and why it is important! You'll also get an idea about what the itinerary will be like, an estimate of cost, a fundraising schedule, and more. If you can't attend this meeting, be sure to contact Fr. Mike today!

September 2019						
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**6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Events**

- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Dinner Church @ St. Andrews Glenmoore (5:00 – 7:00pm)
- October 12<sup>th</sup> – National Acolyte Festival in D.C. (All Day)
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Dinner Church @ TBD (5:00 – 7:00pm)
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – Bishop's Ball @ Trinity Whitmarsh (Time: TBD)
- January 20<sup>th</sup> – MLK Service Day (10:00am – 3:00pm)
- February 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> – Happening Weekend Retreat (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Dinner Church @ St. Anne's Abbington (5:00 – 7:00pm)
- April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> – New Beginnings Weekend Retreat (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)
- May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> – Racial Reconciliation Retreat

**FUEL Youth Group (K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

4:00 – 5:30pm

**For All Ages**

October 29<sup>th</sup>  
All Hallows Eve Service  
+ Costume Party  
6:00 – 8:00pm

February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper  
5:00 – 7:00pm

April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Good Friday Children's  
Stations Event  
2:00 – 4:00pm

September 2019						
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November 2019						
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December 2019						
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May 2020						
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**Regular Class**  
 Church School – Sundays @ 10am  
 Bible Study – Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
 Christ and Coffee – Thursdays @ 11am

**Kids in Church Sunday**

**Special Event**  
 September 8<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Church School  
 October 6<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Animals following the 10am Service (HS students "pet-sit")  
 December 15<sup>th</sup> – Adult Advent Cantata with Youth Narrators  
 December 21<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Pageant Final Dress Rehearsal (9:00 – 11:00am)  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Pageant and Church Party  
 January 5<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Classes Begin (9:15am)  
 February 19<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Service (7:00pm)  
 All of February – Wawa Hoagie Sale, Hosted by the Middle School and High School Classes  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Car Wash Fundraiser, Hosted by the Middle School and High School Classes

**Ash Wednesday/ Collegetville-Trappe Ministerium Lenten Series**

**No Class**

**Holy Week**  
 Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Eucharist with Foot washing at 7:00pm  
 Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
 12 Noon: Stations (Adults)  
 2 – 4pm: Stations (Youth) followed by Activities  
 4pm: Stations (No Liturgy) for All  
 7pm: Good Friday Liturgy (No Stations)  
 Easter Vigil, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Lighting of the Paschal Fire, Eucharist at 7:00pm  
 Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Easter Egg Hunt following the 10am Service

# Register for Classes

Remember—you need to register every year!



## There are 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](http://stjames-episcopal.org/education) to register.

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

**Church School begins September 8th!**

**Please register by September 1st!**

**WELCOME BACK  
TO SCHOOL!**