

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. There has been an amazing increase in the number of children that are attending the Church School classes and we have many new adult volunteers to help teach the classes. We are looking forward to the St. James' Golf Outing and to the opening of the new Outreach House. All these activities are just around the corner and will have most likely happened by the time you have received this Epistle. 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,

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◆ Marilyn Hastings 610-489-9728

Outreach Ministries

◆ Peggy Spinozzi 610-489-1739
 ◆ Patty Earhart 610-489-3023

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Parish Life

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

Member Ministries

◆ Bill Kilgour 610-290-6338
 ◆ Sarah Deacle 215-292-8627

Epistle Editor

♦ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564

Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi



Blessing of the Animals—Sunday, Oct 6th, 11:15AM

Pet sitting available from 10-11:15AM

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 9:45am to help with pet-sitting in Platt's Hall. Pre-K – 8th Grade classes will run as usual, beginning at 10am.

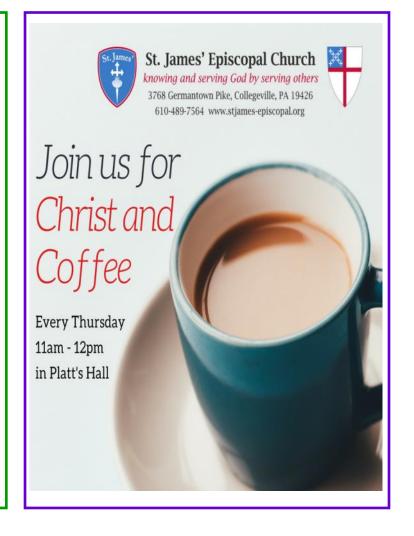
Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

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



Congratulations to our Winner:



Susan Wrick!!!!!

Our last edition of the Epistle had an "Epistle Easter Egg". We had a random draw of participants that entered the contest. Susan, when you have a moment call the office to pick up your prize!

**An Easter Egg is a hidden message or graphic. Thank you to all who played along!!!!

Vestry Highlights

June 2019 through August 2019

June 18th, 2019

- Outreach House Project is going very well. Utilities should be in by August 2nd. The interior will be painted soon.
- Cleaning Contract switching to Patty Bender for better service starts Friday.
- New Communications Policy and updated By-Laws sections will be approved soon and distributed.
- Patty and Carol leading committee to plan Grand Opening for new Outreach House.
- New Request for Repair form distributed for comment.

July 16th, 2019

- By-Laws update approved by e-vote before the meeting.
- Vestry agreed to a Raffle of needlepoint to be provided by Val Allen, as fund raiser for Capital Campaign.
- Next Breakfast meeting for new members is being planned for the Fall.
- We are working on bids for bringing the playground up to state standards.

August 13th, 2019

- Safe Church Audit reviewed by Father Mike under review, and there will be training requirements for key people.
- Good progress is continuing on Outreach House. Sidewalks, utilities in, as well as tiling.
- Day Care contract is being updated.
- State Inspection of Playground is due on September 1st.
- Parking lot will be patched temporarily by Steve Folk, buying some time to fund a full paving project.



Sunday, October 20 at 9:00 AM

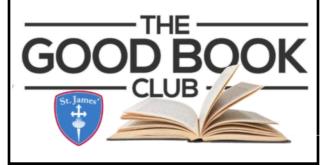
New Comers are invited to join Fr. Mike, Deacon Lou and St. James' parish leadership in Platts Hall for a light breakfast between the 8:00 & 10:00 AM services.

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

Please RSVP: Bill Kilgour at whkilgour@gmail.com

The Good Book Club will have its first meeting of the year on October 14, 2019 at 1:00PM, Downstairs at St. James' Episcopal Church. We will be discussing *The Plague of Doves*, by Louise Erdrich. At this meeting we will chose our readings for the upcoming year. We meet the second Mondays of October, December, February, April, and June. Please join us! All are welcome!





Tuesday,
October 1st at 7PM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FROM LOWER PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPT. TO SPEAK ON SAFETY. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED.



ECW FALL MEETING

Please RSVP to Doreen Mayconich at dkmayconich@comcast.net



Congratulations
Patty Earhart
Winner of the St. James'
Cross Stitch Raffle!

Proceeds from the raffle, going towards the Capital Campaign, were a total of \$635.00!

Thank you to all you participated!

Wreaths Across America Save the Date

On Saturday, December 14th at 10 a.m. we will be laying wreaths on the veteran's graves in the St. James Cemetery. In our cemetery there are well over 60 veterans buried individually as well as a single grave for many veterans of the Revolutionary War. Do you want to help? Go to ww.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pasjec to sponsor wreaths at a cost of \$15 per wreath.

If you would like to volunteer place the wreaths, please contact Maeve Vogan at mcvogan@gmail.com or 610-584-4161



Girl Scouts in Service

Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts (9th-12th grade) participate in a bi-month service project to build camaraderie, friendships and help the community. Our projects this year are focused on helping local organizations that help the less fortunate. At our first meeting of the year the girls made 24 meals for the Outreach House's freezer and crafts for Meal on Wheels in Norristown.

If you know a Girl Scout interested in participating please contact Gwen Zimany at 484-255-1514 or email thump2250@comcast.net or Maeve Vogan at 610-584-4161 or email mcvogan@gmail.com

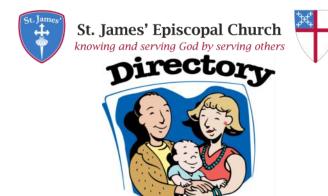




Pick up your copy today!

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 semi-annually.

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



Yoga St. James'

Parishioner, Sally Wong is offering Yoga classes on Friday afternoons from 4:30PM to 5:30PM in Platts Hall. Dates included are 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 11/8 and 11/22. 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.



PLEASE JOIN THE JIM EARHART MEMORIAL CLUB ALONG WITH LOWER PROVIDENCE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR JOINT NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
6:00pm-7:30pm
Outreach House

A Ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church
147 Evansburg Road, Collegeville

Come and see our fabulous new Outreach House and meet with companies located in Lower Providence looking to hire staff.

Next Epistle Submission is November 15

Committee leaders please send in your communication request forms to:

office@stjamesepiscopal.org

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

A NEW SUPPORT GROUP

Living with Loss

Select Tuesdays in the Erickson Room, downstairs at St. James'

10/1 at 10AM; 10/15 at 7PM; 11/12 at 10AM and 12/10 at 7PM

The program, facilitated by Ron Davis, will offer persons who have experienced a loss a chance to share feeling and incidents with others in similar situations.



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





Amazing Things are Happening!

Did you come to the Hands Across St. James' Event on September 21st?

It was **AMAZING!**

Have you been inside the brand-spankin' new Outreach House? No? Why not?

It's AMAZING!

Did you help with the Scout Food Drive Ingathering Day last year?

It was AMAZING!

And guess what? You get the chance to do it again on Saturday November 16th.

It will be **AMAZING!**

Come and be AMAZING with all the volunteers. Ask me how you can help us *to know and* serve God by serving others.

And you know what? You will feel **AMAZING!**



Foyer Gatherings

You might be sad that summer has come to an end, but with the arrival of Fall starts the new program year of Fover Gatherings! Don't you miss those monthly get-togethers? A Foyer Gathering is an informal evening of food, fellowship and fun at a parishioner's home. Participants bring an appetizer or dessert to share, their own beverage as well as an item for the Outreach House pantry. Parish Life has earmarked the 3rd Saturday evening of the month for a Foyer Gathering. The dates are Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18 and May 16. We need hosts to get the ball rolling! If you attended a Foyer in the past, please consider hosting one. We welcome and encourage new hosts. The sign-up sheet for hosting a Foyer is on the bulletin board near the office. If you haven't attended a Foyer yet, we hope you'll come to one this year!





Parish Life is seeking volunteers to host a coffee hour after the Sunday 10 am service. A new sign-up sheet for Sundays in October thru December is posted near the coffee station in Platt's Hall. Please consider taking a turn to foster this time when we greet visitors, newcomers and connect with the other members. Note that you can be reimbursed for the incurred expense up to \$50 if you submit the receipts to Parish Life.

The church supplies the coffee, tea, cups, napkins and creamer. You shop for finger food snacks (loaf cake, donut holes, cookies, pretzels, grapes, apple slices, etc). On Sunday morning, set up the food on serving trays/baskets (available in the church kitchen). Prepare cold drink mix (lemonade/ crystal light) in pitchers and let chill in the frig during church. At the start of coffee hour, brew fresh coffee (reg and decaf) and heat water for tea in the electric hot pot. After coffee hour ends, pack up all remaining food, wash, dry and put away all used dishes, empty and wash all coffee/tea pots and turn warmers off. Take leftover perishable food home.

For more information please contact Joanne Tatem at joanne.tatem@verizon.net.

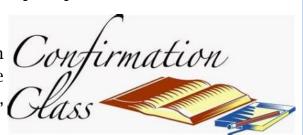
Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is open to all 9th Grade - Adult. Class will begin on January 5th, 2020 and will run for seven weeks, ending on February 16th, 2020. Class will be held from 9:10 -9:50am in Platts Hall. Those desiring to be confirmed must attend six of the seven classes to be eligible for Confirmation. Our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutierrez will be with us at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 19th for the Confirmation service.

All students who are in the High School class who have not yet been confirmed and desire to go on pilgrimage in the Summer of 2020 are required to attend. Please note that this class is not a substitute for the regular Church School class. The High School students will attend both classes.

This class is also open to adults desiring to be confirmed and also to anyone confirmed in another tradition who wants to be received into the Episcopal Church.

Registration for the class begins now and ends on Confirmation December 29th, 2020. If you would like more information, or would like to register for the class, contact Fr. Mike at Rector@stjames-episcopal.org.





Want to play along in our Epistle Easter Egg Contest? Email EEE to office@stjames-episcopal.org to be entered for our next drawing!

Save the Date for **Our Annual** Ham & Oyster Dinner, Saturday, November 2nd! More details coming soon!



Snipets of a







St. James' Episcopal Church

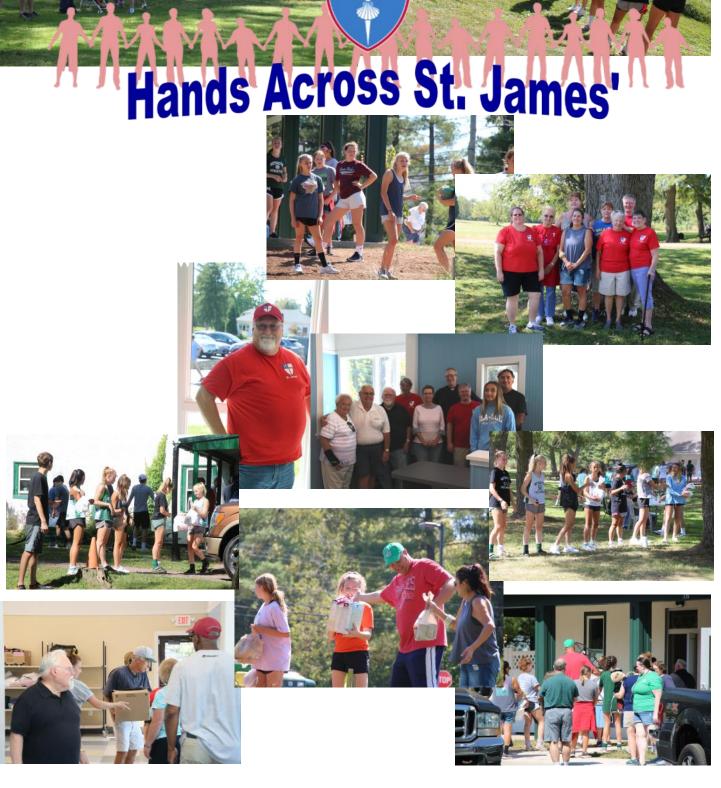
knowing and serving God by serving others 3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426 610-489-7564 www.stjames-episcopal.org



YOUTH MEDIA CLUB!

Didn't make it to our first meeting for training? No problem. We will have another one on Sunday, October 13th at 9:45am downstairs. Come to this short, informational meeting to sign up to be a photographer, videographer or author and be a part of spreading the Word of God through your lens! Questions? Please email Lisa at office@stjames-episcopal.org.





Save the Dates! 6th - 12th Grade Youth Events! October 12, 2019 National Acolyte Festival (All Day) Dinner Church - Valley Forge Deanery (5 - 7pm) November 10, 2019 December 7, 2019 Bishop's Ball - St. Thomas Whitemarsh (7pm - ?) January 20, 2020 MLK Service Day (10am - 3pm) February 7 - 9, 2020 Happening Weekend Retreat (High School Only) Dinner Church - St. Anne's, Abbington (5 - 7pm) April 19, 2020 April 24 - 25, 2020 New Beginnings Retreat (Middle School Only) May 30 - 31, 2020 Racial Reconciliation Retreat

How to submit a Prayer Request

As we continue to grow, we have had to tweak a few of our procedures to help them succeed. When submitting a prayer request, please remember the following:

- Use the manila prayer request card found in the pews of church
- Fill in up to 6 names per card on the front of the card
- Be sure to sign your name and date the submission
- Then put your card in the collection plate

That's all there is to it. Why this procedure? We ask that you utilize the cards so we can forward them to be prayed over. We ask that you sign who you are so we know the connection of requestee to requester. And since the office does not keep the cards, a new card is needed per month keep names on the prayer list and keep the prayer list as accurate as possible.

And don't forget you can have a prayer card sent by filling in the complete mailing address on the card (don't forget the city, state and zip) and we will get one out that week!

Christmas Pageant 2019

Open to all Pre-K - 12th Grade Speaking and Non-Speaking Roles

Rehearsal Schedule:

Sunday, November 24th (11:15 - 12:00pm) - All Cast

Sunday, December 8th (11:15 - 12:00pm) - Speaking Roles Only

Sunday, December 15th (11:15 - 12:00pm) - All Cast

Saturday, December 21st (9:00 - 11:00am) - Final Rehearsal

Christmas Pageant Performance:
Sunday, December 22nd
10:00am

Scenes from the

GRAND OPENING

New Celebration of our



Outreach House



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019







To see all our photos of the event, please visit our webpage at www.stjames-episcopal.org!

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 discuss and prioritize upkeep needs of the church.

<u>Choir (Advanced, Chancel, Junior):</u> 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.

Fover 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.

<u>History Center:</u> 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