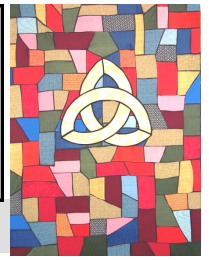




St. James' Notes



Volume 52, Issue 12

December 2015/January 2016



Empowered by the Holy Spirit to be faithful disciples of Jesus, St. James' serves as a beacon of God's love and as a caring Christian family for the community, the nation and the world by seeking to restore all to unity with God and one another and by proclaiming the Good News through worship, witness, education, fellowship and service.

St. James'
Episcopal Church
at Mount Vernon
A parish church in the
Episcopal Diocese
of Virginia and member
of the worldwide Anglican
Communion.



Dear People of St. James',

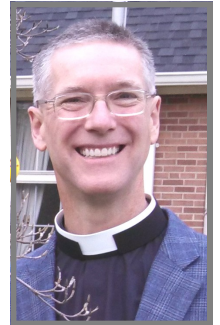
This is a season of endings. We wrap up another year, as the dark evenings close in around us. The church's liturgical year ends, another cycle completed.

But every ending is met with a new beginning. A new year waits to greet us on the other side of the holidays, and soon the days will stretch out again. And the new church year begins with Advent and its preparations for the Christmas season of hope and new life.

Our lives are filled with endings and beginnings. Friends move away, marriages falter, jobs are lost to a pink slip. But each ending opens a space for something new, a new friendship, rediscovery of our selves, perhaps a new career direction. The church itself is filled with endings and beginnings, as members move away and old traditions end—yet new faces fill the pews and lend their hands in ministry, and new ways of doing things open our eyes to fresh sight.

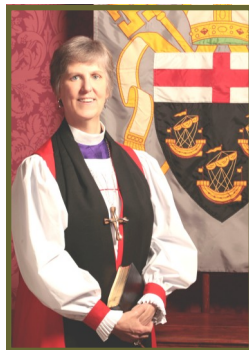
Jesus showed us that endings always contain new beginnings, and that death is the path to new life. If the endings in our lives feel like deaths, then we can follow our faith to look for the victory of life, in small ways and large. Our life together is a constant affirmation of the new beginning that Jesus made for us and with which he continues to bless us.

In Christ,
Charles +



Bishop's Visit ~ Sunday, December 6, 3pm

We welcome our Suffragan Bishop Susan Goff, who will visit St. James' on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. We will have one combined service that Sunday at 3:00pm and will also receive new members. A festive reception will follow the service. Join us!



Annual Parish Meeting ~ Sunday, January 17

The congregation will meet after the 10:15am service for the Annual Meeting and election of new Vestry Members. Church potluck lunch will follow. Please note there will be no 8:00am service this day.



Bulletin Board

St. James' Episcopal Church at Mount Vernon

The Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick Jr.
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Cheryl Viani
Senior Warden

Mike Morgan
Junior Warden and Plant & Property

Marghe Bowker
Local & World Outreach

Mark Braden
Administration & Finance

Eric Katz
Growth & Evangelism

Sara Thompson
Publicity & Communications

Mary Jane Van den Berg
Parish Family

Francesca Wallace
Christian Education

Bill Iber
Treasurer

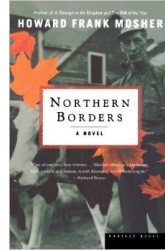
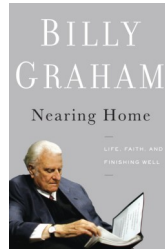
Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Book Club

Our December book is *Nearing Home* by Billy Graham and we will meet on December 10. For January, please read *Northern Borders* by Howard Frank Mosher. We will meet January 14 and 28. Everyone is invited so please come and join us! We meet at 1:00pm in the Church Library.



St. James' Christmas Pageant

Children and adults...if you are interested in participating in the St. James' Christmas Pageant this year, please contact Mike Morgan, Amber Tyler or Francesca Rusk-Wallace. Practices will begin shortly! We're looking forward to another great performance this year. The pageant is on Sunday, December 27.



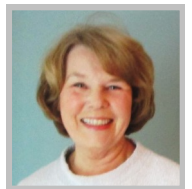
Help Needed with Meals on Wheels Ministry

Please consider volunteering for this very worthwhile ministry to deliver much needed meals to shut-ins along the Route 1 corridor. We need drivers and helpers once a month on the third Wednesday from 10am to noon. The meals are already prepared and packaged – you just pick them up and delivered to the door of those in need. If you are able please contact Bill Iber at (703) 780-0085.



Senior Warden's Corner

Have you ever thought about all the different aspects there are to running a church? Have you ever thought about all the people it takes to make St. James' the loving and active church that it is and that we want it to be? It truly "takes a village."



I know and appreciate the work and contributions of so many people, but I often think about those who give to the church in ways known only to them and to God. Looking back at 2015, I remember all the church activities of the past year and the people who worked together and contributed in both large and small ways to make those events so successful. I hope that everyone in the congregation knows how much the church and its leaders appreciate the gifts of your time, your talents, and yourselves; and I hope that you feel a sense of belonging in our church family. Our church is truly blessed with a wonderful parish priest in Father Charles, a talented and dedicated staff, and warm, friendly people who make up our congregation.

I wish you all a Christmas season filled with God's love and grace and much happiness in the year ahead!

Cheryl Viani

Choir Notes

Dear St. James' Friends,

As I write this, preparations for our national day of thanksgiving are evident all around. Ingredients for dressing and pies and green bean casseroles fill the grocery aisles, you have to step around carts of fresh turkeys and travelling on I-95 is even more of an adventure than usual. Family and friends are gathering from near and far to pause a few moments to give thanks for all the blessings of the year. It's fortunate WE don't have to wait for a whole year to do that – just consider the prayers of the people at each Sunday's Eucharist. Nevertheless, this is a gateway to a season of holidays – both secular and liturgical. We celebrate a new year in the church's calendar with the beginning of advent. The four Sundays of this season will prepare us for the joys of Christmas to come and then quickly the light of the Epiphany season before we delve into the darkness of Lent. Our music reflects the moods of the seasons as well. In Advent, we will be looking forward with music of hope, followed by the ecstatic joys of Noëls ringing about us at Christmas. We will then continue to bask in the glow of Yule logs and candles in the windows as we sing about the Light of the World in Epiphany.



One of my favorites around Christmas time is to hear and sing Christina Rossetti's *In the bleak midwinter*. I like it not for its opening thoughts of dreariness, "In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan," for as you should have gathered, the Advent and Christmas seasons are anything but bleak to me. Rather, I look forward to being the final verse's tender reminder of our opportunity and responsibility to give thanks to God and share the blessings he gives us, when Rossetti writes:

<i>What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;</i>	<i>If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can, I give Him – Give my heart.</i>
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May we each find the appropriate gifts to share as we enter this wonderful New Year.

Soli Deo gloria,
Alan Moser

Bulletin Board

We Recycle

Thanks to our recyclers who collect recycling on one weekend every 6 weeks. We need more volunteers for this very easy but valuable ministry for the church and the Earth. Please contact Marghe Bowker or the church office to volunteer.

December 5 Mike Morgan	January 9 Mike Morgan
December 12 Marghe Bowker	January 16 Marghe Bowker
December 19 Eric Katz	January 23 Eric Katz
December 26 Janet Fallin	January 30 Janet Fallin
January 2 David Batcheller	February 6 David Batcheller



Martin Luther King Day of Service

Monday, January 18, 2016

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive

Invite your friends and neighbors to join you in bringing canned and non-perishable foods to church 9am to noon on MLK Monday, January 18. Volunteers will unload and deliver the food. All food will go to United Community Ministries. Food may also be dropped off at the church on weekdays 9am-1pm.



Mission and Outreach

Our Mission of the 4th Quarter: Christmas Toys for Children

Our Christmas Toys for Children collection will provide holiday gifts (toys and books) for needy area children, through UCM (United Community Ministries). Tags are available in the gallery to pick up so you can shop for a special boy or girl. We hope every child will also receive a book. Purchase your gifts and books – please don't wrap and bring back to St. James' by Sunday, December 6, or before. We will bring the gifts and books over to UCM to



use in their Holiday Gift Room where parents get to pick a gift for their own child and wrap it themselves. With our help UCM will provide gifts to over 1000 needy children in our area! You may also make a monetary donation and appropriate gifts will be purchased for use in UCM's Holiday Gift Room. Write your check to St. James' and put "XMAS for children" in the memo line. Thank you!

Share Your Crèche!



Bring your nativity scenes to share at our afternoon worship on Sunday, December 6. The crèches will be placed on display together in the back of the nave before the afternoon service begins, and remain until the end of the reception following the service. Please let Alan Moser (music@stjamesmv.org) know if you will be bringing a crèche, along with an estimate (your best guess – don't spend a lot of time measuring and calculating) of the amount of space it will require. You can bring the set as early as 1:30pm on December 6 before the service to set it up. After



the service and reception, take your set home and it will be ready for your own holiday decorating.

Altar Guild Notes

1. Thank you to all who make the Altar "set up" proper and lovely! Everyone is invited to join the guild. Talk to Peg Iber.
2. The Altar flowers are supplied by The Virginia Florist. To dedicate flowers sign up on the chart in the gallery. A donation is requested. Each arrangement costs \$35.00.
3. Decorating St. James' for the Christmas season (Greening of the Church) will be Sunday, December 20, at 4:30pm. All are asked to come and help. Supper is served!



Prayers

December Birthdays

- 1 Ray Smith
- 3 Peg Iber
- 6 Christine Whitehouse
- 8 Gordon Grant
- 10 Bobby Whitehouse
- 10 Mary Ann Holthaus
- 10 Adriana Rodriguez
- 12 T. J. Cleary
- 14 Pam O'Connor
- 19 Ann Chadwick
- 25 *Our Lord & Savior*

January Birthdays

- 7 Michele R. Thomas
- 10 Matt Iber
- 21 Paul Trott
- 22 Valerie Morgan
- 25 Zoe Wallace
- 27 Alan Moser
- 28 Ben Wosoogh
- 28 Jacob Lowe

PRAYER LIST

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Meghan, Christine, Muriel, Muriel Sue, Esther, Nora, Jenny, Roger, Patricia, Wayne, Mary, Jeff

We pray for the safety and protection of the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, especially those who serve in harm's way in Afghanistan & Iraq; and all those injured or wounded.

Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| December 26, 1947 | Hank & Evelyn Morgan |
| December 31, 1967 | Gordon & Lee Grant |
| January 7, 1966 | Ben & Jane Wosoogh |
| January 25, 1997 | Matt & Vicki Iber |
| January 28, 1967 | Winston & Laurie doCarmo |

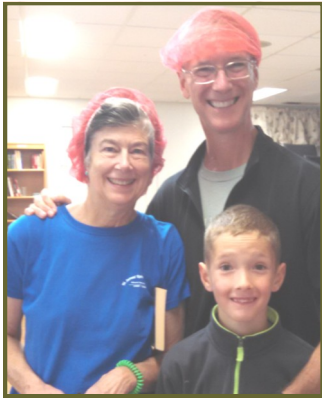


We Want to Include You!

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here, please let us know so that we can include you.

You may email to office@stjamesmv.org or call (703) 780-3081. Thanks!

Stop Hunger Now ~ November 7



Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to prepare 10,000 meals for the hungry!



Schedule of Ministry ~ December 6 to December 27

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas I
Celebrant	Bishop Susan Goff	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Mark Braden	Marghe Bowker	Francesca Wallace	Sara Thompson
Welcoming Team	Mike Morgan	Lib Mueller	Laurie doCarmo	Ellen Cleary
Ushers	Ray & Marge Smith	Ellen Cleary	Wayne Johnson	Mark Braden
	Mike Morgan, Peg Iber	Ben Wosoogh	Eric Katz	McKayla Braden
		8:00am	8:00am	
Chalice/Psalm	No Early Service Today	Stan Dawson	Vicky Vivian	No Early Service Today
Lector		Agnes Chapman	David Batcheller	
Prayers		Marghe Bowker	Francesca Wallace	
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Eric & Marge Katz	Andrew & Rosemarie Richard	Mark & McK. Braden
	3:00pm	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Amber Tussing	Pat Rowell	Sara Thompson	Bob Fitz
Lesson 1	Not needed	Not needed	Marghe Bowker	Christmas Pageant
Psalms	Mary Lowe	Mary Blair	Mark Braden	
Lesson 2	Gordon Grant	Bob Blair	McKayla Braden	
Prayers	Amber Tyler	Hank Morgan	Ben Justesen	
Sacraments	Laurie doCarmo Lib Mueller	Blair Family	Braden Family	Ellen Cleary Anne Patrick
Acolyte	Amber Tyler	Ben Justesen	Pat Rowell	Mary Bramley
Nursery Volunteer	Jennifer McDonald	Kelley Rajotte	Volunteer Needed	
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team
Snack	Special Reception	Rajotte Family	Mary Bramley	

	Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM	Christmas Eve at 10:00 PM
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person of the Day	Cheryl Viani	Mike Morgan
Welcoming Team	All Team Members	All Team Members
Ushers	Mark & McKayla Braden	Ray & Marge Smith
	Ellen Cleary, Barbara Riley	Bob & Mary Blair
Chalice	David Batcheller	Peg Iber
Lesson 1	Francesca Wallace	Bill Iber
Psalms	Sean Wallace	Mary Blair
Lesson 2	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Gordon Grant
Prayers	James Eustis	Bob Fitz
Sacraments	Wallace Family	Matt & Vicky Iber
Acolyte	Ben Justesen	Sara Thompson
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team

The January Schedule of Ministry will be available in late December.

December 2015 and January 2016

EVERY WEEK at St. James' Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00a Sunday School 10:15a Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:30a Coffee			11a Bible Study 12p Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:30p Lunch 6:30p Choir 8:30p AA Mtg			8:30p AA Mtg

THIS MONTH at St. James' Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 November Advent 1	30	1	2	3 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	4	5
6 December 3pm One Service Advent 2	7	8 7:15p Vestry	9	10 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1p Book Club	11	12 9am Cookie Exchange Brotherhood and Daughters
13 December Advent 3	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 December Advent 4 4:30p Greening of Church	21	22 6:30p Choir	23 No Choir	24 5pm Service 10pm Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 December 10:15a One Service Pageant	28	29	30	31	1 January New Year's Day	2
3 January Epiphany	4	5	6	7 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	8	9 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
10 January Baptism of Our Lord	11	12 7:15p Vestry	13	14 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	15	16
17 January Annual Meeting 10:15a One Service	18 MLK Day of Service	19	20	21	22	23
24 January	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 January	1 February	2	3	4 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	5	6

Please always check the online calendar for the most up-to-date event information. Go to our website at www.stjamesmv.org and click on Online Calendar. If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please contact the Parish Office.



St. James' Episcopal Church
Mount Vernon, VA
5614 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309-3332
703-780-3081 www.stjamesmv.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas at St. James' Episcopal Church

December 6, 3:00pm
Service with Bishop Susan Goff

December 20, 4:30 pm
Greening of the Church

December 24, 5pm & 10pm
Christmas Eve Services

December 27, 10:15am
Christmas Pageant

January 3, 8am & 10:15am
The Feast of the Epiphany

