



St. James' Notes



December 2017 & January 2018



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',

The Gospel according to Mark boldly proclaims “the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” By this Mark does not mean Christmas and the birth of the baby Jesus. Mark’s gospel begins the good news with Jesus’ baptism. Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee to be baptized by John, “and just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’”

This is where the story begins for Mark—at the moment when Jesus experienced the ultimate truth of God. Jesus saw through the veil of life to know the essence of heaven. Jesus heard God’s voice, acknowledging him as his Beloved Son.

And Jesus’ ministry flows from this experience, as he shows and teaches his followers to know for themselves that God is love and that God loves us as his own. Jesus sought to restore those who believed they were unworthy, and to chastise those who disregarded God’s love.

The truth that Jesus perceived at his baptism was the truth that defined the rest of his life. He experienced a radical unity with God—“the Father and I are one”—and he sought to bring each of us into that same relationship.

Not many of us will experience the heavens torn apart. And we may not hear God’s voice speaking his words of love to us. But we know through faith that God’s love for us is the reality that lies behind the “normal” lives that we live. And we can be lifted up by God’s love into transformed lives of our own.

We are God’s Beloved children: come, let us adore him.

Charles+



Martin Luther King Day of Service Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive

On Monday, January 15, 2018, invite your friends and neighbors to join you in bringing canned and non-perishable foods to church 9am to noon on MLK Monday, January 15.

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.



Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 21

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

Ray Smith
Senior Warden
Admin & Finance

Mary Bramley
Junior Warden

Mark Braden
Christian Education

Ben Justesen
Plant & Property

Rosemarie Richard
Mission & Outreach

Peggy Rudesheim
Publicity, Growth, & Evangelism

Mike Morgan
Parish Family
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Book Club



St. James' Book Club will meet on Thursday, December and are reading *Plato and Platypus Walk Into a Bar: Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes* by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein. The January 11 meeting will be on *Up from Slavery* by B. T. Washington. Questions? Call Lib Mueller at (703) 360-0561. Everyone is welcome. Join us!

Fall Yard Clean-Up Saturday, December 9, 10:30am

Spend some time outside beautifying the church grounds. We need your help raking leaves, cleaning gutters and preparing the grounds for winter. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves and rakes and dress warmly!



Growth at St. James'

Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) is a program being initiated in many Episcopal Churches, as a way to promote growth. Fr. Charles and nine of our members attended a one-day conference in October, to learn the principles of this program. We were privileged to have Mary Parmer, creator and facilitator of IWC speak to us at St. James' the next day. Her message? Simply put, that we are called as members of Christ's church to **Invite** and **Welcome** people into our midst and then continue to **Connect** with them on any number of levels, even as they become long term members of St. James'.

This is no easy task. Maybe it requires going out of your way, out of your comfort zone, taking time out of your day to **Invite** someone to join you at church. The **Welcome** part can and seems to be the easiest of the three. especially at St. James'! **Connecting** with a newcomer initially, and continuing to keep them connected, is possibly the biggest challenge we face.

Those who attended the IWC conference have agreed to come together as an IWC committee, to take the ideas they brainstormed at the conference and turn them into initiatives for growth at St. James'. Some initiatives will be noticed right away, while others will be subtle. Growth occurs when our seed is planted through outreach and service outside of St. James', so there will be initiatives in those areas, as well.

Some of the initiatives you may see or learn about are: Children's welcome bags with coloring pages, Revival of the photo board, Cleaning up the church grounds, Creation of a labyrinth on church grounds, Reading to residents in assisted living facilities, *Theology on Tap* (a way to reach people on a more casual, social level), Young Professionals group, and more!

It is exciting to see what new things are coming and will continue to come at St. James' from **Invite Welcome Connect**! Thank you to all who will help to grow St. James'!



Highlights of the 223rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

More than 330 lay and clerical delegates from across the Diocese gathered at Christ Church, Glen Allen, Saturday for the 223rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.

The Convention delegates voted to approve Bishop Shannon Johnston's call, with the consent of the Standing Committee, for the election of a second Bishop Suffragan. The election of the new bishop is expected to be held within the next 18 months. The new suffragan will succeed Assistant Bishop Ted Gulick, who is retiring at the end of this year.

The new Bishop Suffragan will maintain a primary office in Northern Virginia and will become the third full-time bishop, joining Bishop Johnston and Bishop Goff.

The Convention delegates passed 10 additional resolutions addressing a broad range of issues including combating wage theft; prevention of opioid addiction; improving public transportation; and family leave for church employees. To read more about the resolutions, you may visit the Diocese webpage.

Delegates passed a balanced budget which includes increased funding for campus ministries. In his Pastoral Address, Bishop Johnston made a special appeal to each of the churches to increase its pledge to the diocesan budget by 2.5% or \$25 per \$1,000 currently given to the Diocese. Bishop Shannon pointed to three specific needs: employing college chaplains for all universities in the Diocese; supporting fledgling and small mission congregations; and improving compensation to attract and retain diocesan staff.

Also in his Pastoral Address, Bishop Johnston spoke about the role of the Church in racial reconciliation. "We learned from Charlottesville that when the Church shows up and takes a stand, people notice and are themselves strengthened to oppose any form of injustice or inhumanity." To read the full Pastoral Address, visit the Diocese web page.

The Convention closed with a tribute to Bishop Gulick, who was also the homilist at the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Gulick will retire to his farm in Fauquier County and looks forward to continuing in an active role with the Diocese.



Sounds of Holiday Spirit Concert Sunday, December 10, 4:30pm

Join us for a free holiday concert at St. James' by students of Kevin Diana and the St. James' Choir. Selections from Handel's Messiah and other sacred and secular holiday seasonal favorites will be performed. This is a family friendly concert, so bring the kids and the grandkids!



Prayers

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Esther, Muriel Sue, Kathey, Bob, Paula, Danny, Shannon, Arlene, and Melissa.

December Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- January 7, 1966 Ben & Jane Wosoogh
- January 25, 1997 Matt & Vicki Iber
- January 28, 1967 Winston & Laurie doCarmo

January Birthdays

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



Mission and Outreach

Mission of the 4th Quarter Christmas Toys for Children

Our Annual Christmas Toys for Children collection provides 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 will collect new toys for children aged infant to teen. See the list of suggestions below. 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 3, 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!

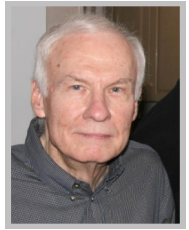
You may also make a monetary donation and appropriate gifts will be purchased for use in UCM's Holiday Gift Room. Write your check to St. James' and put "XMAS for children" in the memo line. Thank you!

Thank You to our Stop Hunger Now Volunteers!



From the Senior Warden

*“Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.
Wouldn’t you like to get away?
Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name
and they’re always glad you came.”*



You may recognize these words from the theme song of the old TV sitcom “Cheers.” The show’s setting was a neighborhood bar in Boston. While I don’t see any parallel between this show and St. James’ Church, I do think that the words of the song are descriptive of St. James’.

You will probably be reading this a short time after Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving should be a time when we reflect on the things for which we are thankful. I am not giving you my list of the many things for which I am thankful. However if I were making a list, I would include being thankful to have St. James’ as my parish church – a church, “where everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came.”

I am always glad to see you at St. James’.

Ray Smith

Choir Notes

Dear St. James’ Friends,

As Christmas comes to your home and heart, what do you see; what do you hear? Songs of Advent and Christmas ask these questions, too. *Do you see what I see? Do you hear what I hear?* When we reach the celebration of Christ’s birth with services on Christmas Eve, the choir will provide some answers to these questions. In the choral prelude to the 10pm service, we will look from different perspectives: of the animals we place at the manger based on the scripture in Isaiah and Luke and those of Jesuit missionaries and First Nations people, as we sing *O Magnum Mysterium* by the late Renaissance Spanish composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria, and *Huron Carol*, a traditional Canadian carol from the mid-17th century. In the first, we hear the words, “O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger.” *Huron Carol* paints images of Jesus born in a lodge of broken bark and wrapped in a robe of rabbit skin. Hunters heard the hymn of the angels, and chiefs from afar brought gifts of fox and beaver pelt. I am reminded that although we worship according to our certain traditions, there are many equally valid traditions and perspectives. A Christmas carol written by American Alfred Burt reminds us, “some children see Him lily white”, or “bronzed and brown,” and that “the children in each different place will see the baby Jesus’ face like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.” The animals seem to claim their roles in the Nativity: the donkey who carried Mary; the cow who gave a manger for a bed; the sheep who gave wool for warmth; and the doves who cooed a lullaby.



Christmas is coming. What do you see? What do you hear?
Gloria in excelsis!

Soli Deo gloria,

Alan Moser



Schedule of Ministry ~ December 3 to January 7

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas I Lesson and Carols
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Mary Bramley	Mark Braden	Ray Smith	Ben Justesen	Rosemarie Richard
Welcoming Team	Lib Mueller	Peggy Rudesheim	Jane Wosoogh	Ray Smith	Ellen Cleary
Ushers	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Peg Iber Barbara Riley	Wayne Johnson Mike Morgan	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Mike Morgan Ellen Cleary
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am		
Chalice	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Stan Dawson	No 8 am service	No 8 am service
Lector	Stan Dawson	Janet Fallin	Paul Vivian		
Psalm	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Stan Dawson		
Prayers	Mary Bramley	Mark Braden	Ray Smith		
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am		
Sunday School	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Andrew Brown Ally Brown	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Peg Iber	Chris Marbaker	Amber Tussing	Bob Fitz	TBA
Lesson 1	Cheryl Nostrand	Bob Fitz	Marghe Bowker	Mike Morgan	
Psalm	Mark Braden	James Eustis	Mary Blair	John Thompson	
Lesson 2	Nancy Sherick	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Bill Iber	Cheryl Nostrand	
Prayers	McKayla Braden	Peg Iber	Bob Blair	Bill Iber	
Sacraments	Laurie doCarmo Lib Mueller	Brown Family	Blair Family	Volunteers	
Acolyte	Elizabeth Lowman	Amber Tussing	Aiden Kohler	Ryan Duffield	Zoe Wallace
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team

Christmas Eve and January Assisting in Worship Schedules will be emailed and distributed.
You may contact the church office if you have questions.

December & January 2017

EVERY WEEK at St. James' Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 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
26 November Christ the King	27	28	29	30	1 December	2
3 December Advent 1	4	5	6	7 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	8	9 Church Yard Clean Up Day
10 December Advent 2 4:30pm Concert	11	12 7:15p Vestry	13	14 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1pm Book Club	15	16
17 December Advent 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 December Christmas Eve 5pm Service 10pm Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 December Christmas 1	1	2	3	4 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	5	6
7 January Epiphany 1	8	9 7:15p Vestry	10	11 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1pm Book Club	12	13 Brotherhood of St. Andrew
14 January Epiphany 2	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 January Epiphany 3 Annual Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 January	29	30	31	1 February	2	3

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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Christmas at St. James'

December 10, 4:30pm

Sounds of Holiday Concert

December 24, 10:15am (no 8am)

Advent 4 Service

December 24, 3:30pm

Greening of the Church

December 24, 5pm & 10pm

Christmas Eve Services

December 31, 10:15am (no 8am)

Lessons & Carols with Eucharist