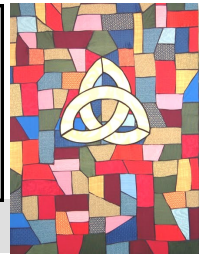




St. James' Notes



December 2018 & January 2019



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 calendar year of 2018 rolls to its inevitable conclusion, and we welcome 2019 with parties and resolutions. Meanwhile, the church year begins afresh with the season of Advent... but Advent is complicated. Advent is a time when we contemplate the coming of something new and wonderful that also brings an end to the way things have been. Once the world did not know God's love for them. During Advent we share in that ancient yearning for God to make himself known in the world, and to lead us all into the fullness of life that he intends for us.



Advent is a brooding season that waits for the coming fulfillment of God's promises, first given in the babe born to Mary, and still yet to be fulfilled in the ultimate coming of God's Kingdom. As we think of shepherds at watch at night, we remember that God sent Jesus into a world that didn't know him, and it is through the coming of Jesus that we now live in his presence. Before we struggled in ignorance and darkness; now we rejoice in his light.

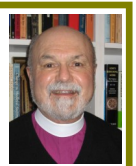
Advent looks ahead to a future when the darkness of the past is ended. Advent reminds us of our hope that God's love and light will spread to all the corners of the world.

God sent Jesus into the world so that he might bring us back to Him. May we each be a part of God's new beginning by following Jesus into God's Kingdom, and sharing God's love with others.

In Christ, Charles+

Bishop's Visitation

Join us for one service at 10:15 am on Sunday, December 2.
The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff, Assisting Bishop, will be visiting us.



Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 20

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.



Martin Luther King Day of Service Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive

On Monday, January 21, 2019, invite your friends and neighbors to join you in bringing canned and non-perishable foods to church 9am to noon on MLK Monday, January 21. 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.



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

Rt. Rev. Robert Wilkes Ihloff
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Ray Smith (2019)
Senior Warden, Admin/Finance
Plant & Property

Mary Bramley (2019)
Jr. Warden; Growth & Evangelism

Diana Courtney (2021)
Youth Christian Education/Activities

Ben Justesen (2020)
Adult Christian Education

Rosemarie Richard (2020)
Parish Events

Chris Marbaker (2019)
Mission & Outreach

John Thompson (2021)
Mission & Outreach

Mary Jane Van den Berg (2021)
Parish Family

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Highlights of the 224th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

More than 330 lay and clerical delegates from across the Diocese gathered at the Richmond Marriott November 1-3 for the 224th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia. It was the final Convention to be led by the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop of Virginia, who announced his retirement August 3. At the conclusion of Friday's proceedings, he passed presiding duties to the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan.

In her address on the final day of Convention, Bishop Goff said, "As I begin this period as ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese of Virginia, I commit myself again to life in community with you... We are a community for one another and for the love for the world. As we go now into the world, we will grow in community.... As we go now into the world, we will build on all that has come before." Bishop Goff announced that she will host a series of Listening Sessions around the Diocese before Christmas to "hear your concerns, your frustrations, your joys and your hopes about our life as a diocese."

Helen Spence, Chair of the Standing Committee, addressed next steps in the transition process, along with J.P. Causey, Chancellor of the Diocese. Ms. Spence and Mr. Causey also took questions from the floor. The Standing Committee will continue the search for a Bishop Provisional. The Convention passed a resolution that would authorize the Bishop Suffragan, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to hire an Assistant Bishop when and if needed.

In his final pastoral address, Bishop Johnston thanked the people of the diocese for "keeping the main thing, the main thing," during the years when the Diocese was in litigation with breakaway congregations. He spoke about his commitment to the inclusion of LGBTQ Christians into "the fullness of our community." He applauded our growing willingness to "engage issues in the public square as people of faith.... Our call has never intended to be partisan: our only bias is Jesus." He celebrated the deepening partnership with the Dioceses of Liverpool, UK, and Kumasi, Ghana - the Triangle of Hope. Bishop Paul Bayes of Liverpool and Archbishop Daniel Sarfo of West Africa were among his special guests at the Convention.

Other actions of convention include:

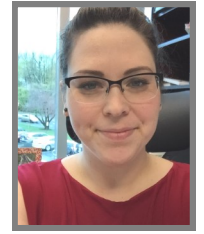
- Passing two additional resolutions: one condemning the recent violence against the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh; the other commending the Way of Love/Rule of Life endorsed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.
- Celebrating the transition of Trinity Church, Charlottesville, from mission status to full parish status.
- Approving a budget totaling \$4,946,087. The budget featured increased funding for college chaplaincies, a new ministry for the hearing impaired, and continued support growing ministries across the Diocese.

More convention news is available on the website, www.thediocese.net.



From the Junior Warden

What a year! I think I could just type that and almost everyone reading this would know what I mean. Some of our friends have moved away or passed on, made new friends, had some health crises, experienced health miracles, and always found our way to church on Sunday for support and to see a friendly face.



We have run successful mission programs. We had a great time at Rise Against Hunger! We are continuing our support of the Holiday Gift room at United Community Ministries (UCM), meals for Rising Hope Mission Church, and canned foods for the hungry. But, we did so many new things this year too.

One of our major successes was the completion of our 60 for 60 Campaign. We remembered why St. James' has been for 60 years, we shared stories, heard from Rev. Stinson, and we came together as a congregation to raise the funds necessary to update the windows and HVAC system in the church.

We kicked off our Theology on Tap program that brings a group together to talk about our faith in a relaxed environment. I think it has brought us closer as a faith community, to know what our questions are, to know how we feel about our relationship with Christ.

Our newest members have been meeting almost monthly as part of St. James' Next to help us find our place in church. There are many exciting activities coming up for this group and I am looking forward to what the future of this group will be.

Each Sunday, our teenagers have been participating in teen-age Sunday school. This is the highlight of my Sunday getting to sit with our teenagers and learning about their interests, teaching about the church, and even learning new things! Did you know there are five parts to a collect? Or, that dragons are referenced 33 times in the Bible?

What a year, indeed.

Mary Bramley

Growth & Evangelism

As the holiday season approaches, let us remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who might not have family coming to visit or have a card waiting for them in the mail. Take a moment to call someone you haven't seen or spoken to in a while. Offer to drive them to church or get lunch sometime in the week. Send a card, email, Facebook message to just say hello. As we head into the Season of Advent, the joyous celebration of Christmas, and a time of renewal with the New Year, make a resolution to say hello more.



Rise Against Hunger



Bulletin Board

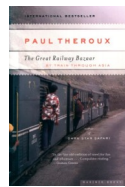


Music Recital ~ 6:30pm, Sunday, December 9

Everyone is invited to hear a recital of music by Kevin Diana's voice students on Sunday, December 9.

Book Club

St. James' Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 13, and we will discuss *Red Sky at Morning* by Richard Bradford. The following month we meet January 10 and are reading *Great Railway Bazaar* by Paul Theroux. Questions? Call Lib Mueller at (703) 360-0561. Everyone is welcome. Join us!



St. James' Next

Join us on December 15 from 8-11am as we help sort donated toys! Location is 123 N. Alfred St. If you are interested in participating, contact Mary at maryfbramley@gmail.com or (703)629-9158 as spots are limited. Open to ages 6 and up.

ZooLights! On January 1; meet at the National Zoo in DC at 5pm to see the lights and enjoy the sights of the zoo.



Greening of the Church ~ December 23, 5pm

Please come help decorate our church for Christmas. This is fun annual activity, join us!

Theology on Tap

Join us as we meet outside of church to discuss topics on theology and our faith in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Contact Mary Bramley for details. Mary can be reached by email at maryfbramley@gmail.com. Mark your calendars for:



Thursday, December 13, 6pm, Burton's
6452 Old Beulah St, Alexandria
Thursday, January 10, 6 pm
Kimchi House
8537 Richmond Hwy Alexandria

Bring a friend!

Sunday School and Adult Forum Every Sunday

At 9:00am we have Adult Forum with coffee and conversation in Braxton Hall. At 10:00am we offer Sunday School for children



Happy Birthday

December

- 1 Ray Smith
- 3 Peg Iber
- 10 Bobby Whitehouse
- 10 Mary Ann Holthaus
- 10 Adriana Rodriguez
- 12 T. J. Cleary
- 25 *Our Lord & Savior*

Happy Anniversary

- January 7 Ben & Jane Wosoogh
- January 25 Matt & Vicki Iber
- January 28 Winston & Laurie doCarmo

Happy Birthday

January

- 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

Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

In a few days (as I write this), St. James' folk will *Rise Against Hunger* and pack 10 thousand meals for distribution in areas of need worldwide. I enjoy ringing the gong at every thousand. But as I have anticipated this event, I have heard "Rise against hunger" morph into "Rise up, arise, rise and shine," a text that comes from Isaiah 60 and is sung in Mendelssohn's oratorio, *St. Paul*. The swirling echoes in my head then become many instances of the hymns and anthems of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany that speak to us of a "morning star so fair and bright," "your people's everlasting light," "beauteous heavenly light," "brightest and best of the stars of the morning," and "Light of Light, love given birth." All of these come in the darkness of winter as we await Christ's birth, and then glory in the radiance of the manger child; as we go from the shortest of days toward the glow of Moses, Elijah and Jesus on the mountaintop. The anticipation and excitement of the upcoming seasons of the liturgical year are indeed reflected in the hymnody of the time.



We soon will have risen up against hunger, and we will be reflecting the brilliance of Christ, "the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation." I hope that your Advent, Christmas and New Year are filled with the wonder of the light shining in the darkness!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Alan Moser



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). We will collect toys for children aged infant to teen. See the list of suggestions below. Purchase your gift for a boy or girl – please don't wrap – and bring back to St. James' by Sunday, December 2 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!

Suggested Gift Items

For Infants and Toddlers: diaper bags, toddler toys, clothing, blocks, stuffed animals, cloth or board books.

For Children: action figures, dolls, puzzles, games, soccer balls, basketballs, picture books or chapter story books.

For Teenagers: headphones, accessories, gift cards, young adult books or non-fiction books.

Schedule of Ministry ~ December 2 to January 6

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30	January 6
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Lessons & Carols	Christmas 2
Celebrant	The Rev. Robert Ihloff	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Ray Smith	Chris Marbaker	Mary Jane Van den Berg	Mary Bramley	Ben Justesen	Rosemarie Richard
Ushers	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Mike Morgan Chad Duffield	Wayne Johnson Barbara Riley	Peg Iber Ellen Cleary	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Mark Braden McKayla Braden
		8:00am	8:00am	8:00am		8:00am
Chalice	No 8:00am Service today	Paul Vivian	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson	No 8:00am Service today	Vicky Vivian
Lesson 1		David Batcheller	Janet Fallin	Tim Myers		Andy Wormser
Lesson 2		Stan Dawson	Paul Vivian	Andy Wormser		Tim Myers
Prayers		Paul Vivian	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson		Vicky Vivian
		10:00am	10:00am	10:00am		10:00am
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Heidi Brock	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	Diana Courtney	No Sunday School	Diana Courtney
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Amber Tussing	Chris Marbaker	Mary Blair	Bob Fitz	Mike Morgan	Mary Bramley
Lesson 1	Mckayla Braden	Ryan Duffield	Bob Fitz	Mike Morgan	Readers TBD	Cheryl Nostrand
Psalm	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Ali Duffield	Cheryl Nostrand	Peg Iber		Mike Morgan
Lesson 2	Mark Braden	James Eustis	Bob Blair	Ben Justesen		Nancy Sherick
Prayers	Ben Justesen	John Thompson	Mike Morgan	Bill Iber		Peg Iber
Sacraments	Diana Courtney Heidi Brock	Anne Patrick Lib Mueller	Duffield Family	Peg Iber Laurie doCarmo	Barbara Riley Ellen Cleary	Lib Mueller Anne Patrick
Acolyte	Amber Tussing	Ben Justesen	Ali Duffield	Chris Marbaker	Ryan Duffield	Elizabeth Lowman
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani 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 2018 & January 2019

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 I 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
25 November Christ the King	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 December Advent 1	3	4	5	6 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	7	8 9am Brotherhood/ DOK Cookie Exchange
9 December Advent 2 6:30 Concert	10	11 7:15p Vestry	12	13 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1pm Book Club	14	15
16 December Advent 3	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 December Advent 4 5pm Greening of the Church	24 Christmas Eve 5pm Service 10pm Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29
30 December Christmas 1 One Service at 10:15am	31	1 January	2	3 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	4	5
6 January Epiphany	7	8 7:15 Vestry	9	10 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1pm Book Club	11	12 8am Brotherhood
13 January Epiphany 1	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 January Annual Meeting One Service at 10:15am	21 9am MLK Food Drive	22	23	24	25	26
27 January Epiphany 3	28	29	30	31	1 February	2

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 23, 5:00pm

Greening of the Church

December 24, 5pm & 10pm

Christmas Eve Services

December 30, 10:15am

Lessons & Carols with Eucharist