



St. James' Notes



December 2019 & January 2020



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',

Advent is upon us, the anticipation of the coming of the Christ, which is both a remembrance of the birth of Jesus and a hope for his coming again.

We gladly remember the birth of Jesus, and Christmas is filled with warmth and joy. But we are prone to experiencing Christmas as an end in itself. Advent reminds us that Christmas is a beginning, the coming into the world of the Son of God in order to bring us his salvation. And so we also look to his coming again, to the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem the world, to usher in the fullness of his kingdom.

Advent is a quiet season of expectation that ends with the great celebration of Christmas. Our faith invites us to live our lives in the same way, in a state of perpetual Advent, waiting and preparing for that joyful day when all that Jesus promised us is realized, when all of God's creation is joyfully gathered around him in peace and adoration.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Charles+



Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 19

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 20, 2020, invite your friends and neighbors to join you in bringing canned and non-perishable foods to church 9am to noon on MLK Monday, January 20. Volunteers will unload and deliver the food. All food will go to United Community. 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. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan &
Ecclesiastical Authority

Rt. Rev. Robert Wilkes Ihloff
Bishop Associate

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Ben Justesen (2020)
Sr. Warden

Diana Courtney (2021)
Jr. Warden
Christian Education

McKayla Braden (2022)
Evangelism & Publicity

James Eustis (2020)
Plant & Property

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Administration & Finance

Rosemarie Richard (2020)
Outreach

Mary Jane VandenBerg (2021)
Parish Family

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Susan Clark
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Highlights of the 225rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

More than 450 lay and clerical delegates from across the Diocese gathered at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, November 14-16, for the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.

Delegates to Convention have several responsibilities including the election of leaders to governing bodies, passing a budget for the upcoming year, and voting on any resolutions that come before the Convention.

Budget

The Convention delegates approved a budget totaling \$5,137,000. The budget featured increased funding for the work of race and reconciliation and continued support for growing ministries across the Diocese.

Resolutions and other Actions of Convention

Delegates to Convention passed the following resolutions:

R-1 Discontinuing Single-Use Plastic Products

R-2 Amended Diocesan Alcohol Use Policy

R-3 Requesting Reconsideration of Water Intake Site to Avoid Monacan Nation Ancestral Village and Grave Sites and to Provide Improved Protection of Graves of Native American and Enslaved People

R-4 Stipendiary Clergy Pay Equity

Highlights of Bishop Goff's Pastoral Address

In her pastoral address, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority, announced that she will call for the election of the next Bishop Diocesan at Diocesan Convention in 2020. The consecration of the Bishop Elect will likely occur in late summer or early fall of 2022. Bishop Goff said that she will retire in 2023.

In a recorded video address to the delegates, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry expressed his support for the timeline and plan for the election.

The full text of Bishop Goff's pastoral address is available at www.thediocese.net. Videos of both Bishop Goff's address and Presiding Bishop Curry's address are available on the diocesan Facebook page.

Other Highlights

The Diocese's new Assistant Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson was introduced at this Convention. Bishop Brooke-Davidson joined the Diocese on November 4. She was previously Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of West Texas.

Bishop Associate Robert Ihloff made his parting address toward the close of this Convention. Bishop Ihloff will return to the Diocese of Maryland in January of 2020 to serve as a part-time Assistant Bishop.

For details and continuing post-Convention coverage, visit the Diocese on Facebook and at www.thediocese.net.



From the Senior Warden

As I write this column, Thanksgiving approaches. Our parish has just completed one of its best-attended events—the annual Rise Against Hunger, in which more than 10,000 nutritious meals were packaged for distribution to the less fortunate around the world. It took only a few hours in Braxton Hall on Saturday morning for parishioners from St. James and St. Luke's, joined by friends and neighbors, to accomplish this—the turnout in our fourth year was amazing!—but it did not end with the clean-up. No, this joy will last for months to come.



It is a fitting segue into the Advent season, which begins just after our own Thanksgiving Eve service. This is the most special season of the year for all of us, recalling the beauty of past Christmases with our festive and well-lit Christmas tree already adorning the gallery, beside the boxes of unwrapped gifts for children and the familiar wagon of nonperishable food. Soon the pace will quicken, as that blessed event once again approaches: we will gather to decorate the church with greenery and poinsettias, carols and hymns will fill the air, families will gather to celebrate the timeless warmth of shared fellowship, and we will all await the remembrance of the Christ Child's birth in Bethlehem so many years ago. It is a time of joy for us at St. James and beyond its doors.

In the weeks to come, pause to reflect, and remind yourselves of the simplest of truths—that we must surely share this joy with all those we meet: friend, family, and stranger alike.

Thanks be to God!

Ben Justesen

Rise Against Hunger



St. James' packed meals to feed over 10,000 hungry people on Saturday, November 23. What a wonderful way to spend the day!

Bulletin Board

Greening of the Church ~ December 22 5pm

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



Music Recital Sunday, December 15, 7:00pm

Everyone is invited to hear a recital of music by
Kevin Diana's voice students.



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

Book Club

St. James' Book Club will not meet in December.
They will meet January 9 and are reading **The Good Pilot Peter Woodhouse** by Alexander McCall Smith. Questions? Call Lib Mueller at (703) 360-0561. Everyone is welcome. Join us!



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 Kindergarten through 5th grade. The children join their parents in church for the passing of the peace and communion.



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 December and January, we will hear and sing again and again about Christ's coming. In Advent, we sing prayerfully about preparation and waiting for the pending birth. Many Advent hymns are among the oldest texts in *Hymnal 1982*. At Christmas, we hear the proclamation of the heavenly birth - from angels to shepherds and mankind, and in many carols to the gathered animals. As we reach Epiphany, we hear of the proclamation and acknowledgement of Jesus' birth by the world at large as the magi arrive from distant lands following a star. As we move into the season after Epiphany, there is another coming of Christ: to the waters of the Jordan for baptism and heavenly recognition as "my beloved son."

The hymns are sometimes pensive and somber, major and minor, ancient and modern. Sometimes they are chants, sometimes like a dance. Always they are there enabling us to proclaim our adoration and devotion to our savior. I hope that there will be a carol that stays in your heart and strengthens your faith this hopeful Advent and joyful Christmas and happy New Year!

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 UC (United Community). We will collect toys for children aged infant to teen. Purchase your gift for a boy or girl - please don't wrap - and bring back to St. James' by Sunday, December 8 or before. We will bring the gifts and books over to UC 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 UC 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 UC's Holiday Gift Room. Write your check to St. James' and put "XMAS for children" in the memo line. Thank you!



Schedule of Ministry ~ December 1 to January 5

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29	January 5
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas 1	Epiphany
	Casual Church				Lessons & Carols	Casual Church
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Preacher				The Rev. Pedro Cuevas		
Vestry Person	James Eustis	Chris Marbaker	Rosemarie Richard	Mary Jane Van den Berg	James Eustis	Ben Justesen
Ushers	Mike Morgan Barbara Riley	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Chad Duffield Susan Clark	Peg Iber Ellen Cleary	Mike Morgan Susan Clark
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am		8:00am
Chalice	Ray Bonniwell	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	David Batcheller	No 8:00am service	Ray Bonniwell
Lesson 1	David Batcheller	Ray Bonniwell	Tim Myers	Janet Fallin		Paul Vivian
Lesson 2	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Agnes Chapman	Andy Wormser	Ray Bonniwell		Janet Fallin
Prayers	Ray Bonniwell	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	David Batcheller		Ray Bonniwell
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	
Sunday School	Casual Church	Katie Eustis	Heidi Brock	Diana Courtney	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	
Chalice	Marghe Bowker	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Peg Iber	Bill Iber	Mary Bramley	Chris Marbaker
Lesson 1	Casual Church	Ryan Duffield	James Eustis	Marghe Bowker	Readers TBD	Casual Church
Psalm		Mark Braden	Bill Iber	Cheryl Nostrand		
Lesson 2		McKayla Braden	Ben Justesen	Peg Iber		
Prayers		Ally Duffield	Mike Morgan	Suzanne Synnestvedt		
Sacraments	Susan Clark Laurie Do Carmo	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	Braden Family	Duffield Family	Diana/Marbaker Family	Barbara Riley Anne Patrick
Acolyte	Ally Duffield	Ben Justesen	Ryan Duffield	Ally Duffield	Ben Justesen	Ally Duffield
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	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team

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

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

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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PERMIT NO. 14
MOUNT VERNON, VA

Christmas at St. James'

December 22, 5:00pm

Greening of the Church

December 24, 5pm & 10pm

Christmas Eve Services

December 29, 10:15am

Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

