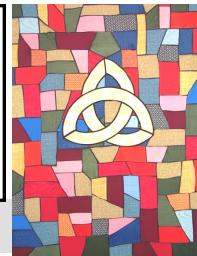




St. James' Notes

Volume 51, Issue 12

December 2014 & January 2015



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',

As we prepared this combined December/January issue of the *St. James' Notes*, it struck me that both months are filled with new beginnings. Advent signals the beginning of a new liturgical year, even as January announces the start of the new calendar year. At Christmas we celebrate the new beginning given us by God, revealed in the birth of Jesus and experienced in the redemption that he brings us. And on January 1, we resolve to make fresh starts, with resolutions to improve ourselves, to adopt better habits, and to strengthen our will to better our lives.



The Christmas story begins with the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she will bear a son, who will be called the Son of God. Mary's response was filled with humility, trust, and obedience. She said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." With these words, Mary committed herself, soul and body, to God's purposes.

As we enter this season of beginnings, we can keep Mary's example before us. When we make our resolutions for the New Year, we too may put our trust in God, and ask that we be filled with his will for us. We may pray, "Not my will, but thy will." And as we align our lives with God's purposes, so we will be filled with his grace and power, to do the work he has given us to do.

In Christ,

Charles+



Bishop's Visit on December 21

We welcome our Suffragan Bishop Susan Goff, who will visit St. James' on the 4th Sunday of Advent. We will have one combined service that Sunday at 10:15am and will also receive new members. A festive reception will follow the service. Later that same day, we meet for Greening of the Church at 4:00pm. Join us!

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 18

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.



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

Boahemaa Nketia
Nursery Director

Vestry

Ray Smith
Senior Warden

Cheryl Viani
Junior Warden

Marghe Bowker
Local & World Outreach

Ben Justesen
Christian Education

Dean Sherick
Plant & Property

Sara Thompson
Growth & Evangelism

Mary Jane Van den Berg
Parish Family

Bill Iber
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

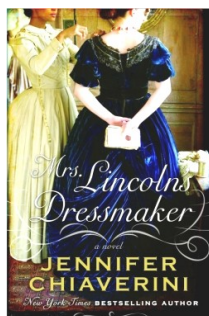
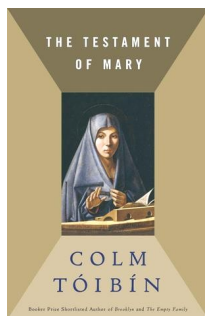
Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Bulletin Board

Book Club— Join us!

The Book Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 12:30pm in Braxton Hall. Our December book is *A Testament of Mary* by Colm Toibin and we meet December 11 — only once in December. Our January book is *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. We meet January 8 and 22. Hope to see you there!



We Recycle!

Thank you to our team of recyclers for doing a great job. Additional volunteers are welcome. It just takes one hour every 6 weeks to collect the recycling at the church. Contact the church office or Marghe Bowker if you interested.

December 6	Janet Fallin
December 13	David Batcheller
December 20	Mike Morgan
January 3	Marghe Bowker
January 10	Eric Katz
January 17	Janet Fallin
January 24	David Batcheller
January 31	Mike Morgan

DOK Blankets for Rising Hope

In November, the St. James' chapter of the Daughters of the King made 30 fleece blankets as part of St. James' outreach ministry to the Rising Hope Mission Church. All adults were invited to join the Daughters for a light lunch following Sunday Coffee Hour on November 16 to help us complete this project for this year. We are delighted and so grateful that so many volunteers from our St. James' family accepted the invitation to join us in this activity. You made it possible for our church to provide far more warmth and love to those in need in our community than would have been possible without your help. And we had a wonderful time working on the blankets and admiring each other's work! We cannot thank you enough! We are blessed indeed and wish everyone a Christmas season filled with the full meaning of the most wonderful gifts of all---God's gifts of grace and love!

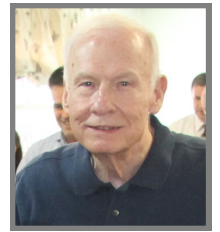
Ann Chadwick



Daughters deliver the blankets to Mary Hamilton at Rising Hope Mission Church

From the Senior Warden

Do you ever stop and think about the “what ifs” in our parish life? What if St. James’ had more members and more children in the congregation? What if St. James’ had a bigger budget and no mortgage? What if we had more people willing to serve on the Vestry? If we don’t feel sorry for ourselves, thinking in this manner can be useful in planning and motivation.



We can look at this exercise differently and say what if St. James’ budget was much smaller? What if our congregation was smaller with no children? What if we had a dilapidated building instead of the nice facility that we have? What if we had no volunteers instead of our willing congregation who respond to every call for service? What if we did not have a priest who is dedicated to serving God and our parish? Things look pretty good when we look at them with a positive attitude. We are indeed a very fortunate congregation when we stop and count our blessings.

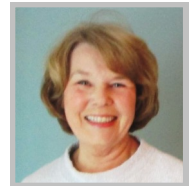
I am not saying that we should sit back and be complacent, but that we should be thankful for what we have and always strive to do our best and make things better.

Ray Smith



From the Junior Warden

As the year draws to a close, we again wonder, “Where did the time go?” We can see where the time went in watching the children of the parish grow. We end each year with the joyous celebration of Christmas. Christmas is for “children of all ages.” That is especially true here at St. James’ Church. Our donations of gifts and books to the United Community Ministries help ensure a happier Christmas for many children, and, in a way, it is a gift to ourselves, knowing that we have brought joy to a child. For the children of our parish (and for the enjoyment of the adults), we will have the Christmas pageant on December 28 at the 10:15am service.



Music is a large part of the joy of the Christmas season, and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 7 at 4pm is a great way to usher in this holy time of year. It is a quiet time that is pure enjoyment. The Greening of the Church will be held on December 21 at 4pm. We will decorate the church to reflect the beauty of season and in preparation for the services on Christmas Eve. Everyone is invited. The Altar Guild has a team who create the plan to decorate the church, but we need people to help put up and arrange the greens. If you enjoy decorating for holidays and would like to be a part of the planning, please contact Andy De la Cour or me.

When the holidays are over, we will again prepare for a new year of church activities. At the parish Annual Meeting on January 18, we will thank the outgoing Vestry members, elect the new Vestry members, review the budgets for the past year and upcoming year, and enjoy some time together.

I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with love and happiness!

Cheryl Viani



“We found our donkey!”

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 – attach the tag and bring back to St. James' by Sunday, December 7, 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!

Gifts Needed by December 7!



Hot Lunches for Rising Hope



Twice each month we continue to provide hot lunches to those in need at Rising Hope Mission Church. The people that we serve are even more grateful each time that we arrive. If you would like to help this ministry monthly or if you just want to sign up to prepare a dish occasionally, please call Marge Katz at (412) 303-7801. Thanks!

Fill the Wagon Every Week ~ Food Pantry Donations Always Needed



Thank you for your faithful giving of food each week for the Food Pantry at Rising Hope. A hungry family may fill a bag once each week from the pantry; our donations don't last long. Please, continue to bring a few items every week and thank you!

Martin Luther King Day of Service Monday, January 19, 2015



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 19.

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.

Prayers

Birthdays



December

1 Ray Smith
3 Peg Iber
4 Doris Hall
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

10 Matt Iber
10 Violet Baker
14 Karen Walker
21 Paul Trott
22 Cathi Lisle Barrett
22 Valerie Morgan
25 Bob Chalfant
25 Zoe Wallace
27 Alan Moser
28 Ben Wosoogh
28 Jacob Lowe

Anniversaries



December 19, 1948	Don & Joy Lee Mansfield
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

Prayer List



We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Stephanie, Molly, Gavin, Shawn, Peggy, Rhu, Muriel, Muriel Sue, Esther, Nora, Jenny, Roger, Olivia, Christopher, Christine, John, Jacqui, Richard, Shirley, Amber, Mary, Jeff, Lee, Virginia, Peggy, Ruth, Anne, Leo, Rick, Elizabeth, Dorothea, Bryan, Gina, Porter, Roger, Tad, Richard, Patsy, Margaret, Barbara, Klaus

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: Captain Paul Lowman, and all those injured or wounded.

From the Director of Music



Dear St. James' Friends,

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light – Isaiah 9:2

What a prophet Isaiah was – he knew exactly what I wanted to say to describe the music of the next few weeks: music of the dark days of Advent, as we prepare for Christ's coming, and the music of the light of Bethlehem's star at Christmas time and in Epiphany, the season of light.

Fortunately, Advent's dark days don't require that the music be any less glorious. In particular, I am excited about the anthem we will hear on the fourth Sunday of Advent as Bishop Goff visits us. *Savior of the Nations, Come* combines the familiar words and tune of this Advent song, sung by the choir, with the tunes *Veni Emmanuel* and *Hodie, Christus natus est*, played by flautist Ann Smith and bassoonist Mary Lowe.

In the light of Epiphany the choir will sing Andre Thomas' arrangement of *Walk in the Light*. This arrangement is every bit as exciting as his recent *Keep Your Lamps*, for which we enjoyed Bob Blair's percussion accompaniment.

Many of you know I am pursuing a master's degree in church music. My "conducting half-recital requirement has taken the form of a "Musical Meditation for an Advent Afternoon." This service, incorporating music of Bach, Praetorius, and ancient chants of the church will be presented by a 16-member vocal ensemble and 9 instrumentalists. I invite you to join me for this service on Sunday, December 14, at 4:30 pm at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, 4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale.

Soli Deo Gloria Alan

Schedule of Ministry ~ December 7 to January 4

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28	January 4
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas 1	Epiphany
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person of the Day	Sara Thompson	MJ VandenBerg	Cheryl Viani	Ben Justesen	Dean Sherick
Welcoming Team	Jane Wosoogh	Lib Mueller	Andy DelaCour	Ellen Cleary	Mike Morgan
Ushers	Andrew Richard	Gus Braun	Ray & Marge Smith	Bob Blair	Eric Katz
	Rosemarie Richard	Barbara Riley	Wayne Johnson, Peg Iber	Mary Blair	Marge Katz
	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	Bishop's Visit One Combined Service at 10:15am	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
Chalice	Vicky Vivian	Stan Dawson		David Batcheller	Stan Dawson
Lector	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller		Vicky Vivian	Paul Vivian
Psalm	Vicky Vivian	Stan Dawson		David Batcheller	Stan Dawson
Prayers	Sara Thompson	MJ VandenBerg		Ben Justesen	Dean Sherick
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Sunday School	Francesca Wallace	Andrew Richard	Eric Katz	No Sunday School	Francesca Wallace
	Mary Lowe	Rosemarie Richard	Marge Katz		Mary Lowe
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
Chalice	Sara Thompson	Mary Blair	Marghe Bowker	Bob Fitz	Bill Iber
Lesson 1	James Eustis	Bob Blair	Mike Morgan	Christmas Pageant	Nancy Sherick
Psalm	Ben Justesen	Pat Rowell	Sean Wallace		Peg Iber
Lesson 2	Gordon Grant	Cheryl Nostrand	Amber Prigmore		Dean Sherick
Prayers	Mike Morgan	Mark Braden	Mary Lowe		Bill Iber
Sacraments	Rodriguez Family	Doug Cleary	Anne Patrick	Morgan Family	Laurie doCarmo
		Ellen Cleary	Barbara Riley		Peg Iber
Acolyte	Sara Thompson	Ben Justesen	Pat Rowell	Ben Justesen	Amber Tussing
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Denise Symonds	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Iber Team

	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	Marghe Bowker	Ray Smith
Welcoming Team	All Members	All Members
Ushers	Andrew & Rosemarie Richard	Ray & Marge Smith
	Doug & Ellen Cleary	Fred Rudesheim, Barbara Riley
Chalice	Stan Dawson	Mike Morgan
Lesson 1	Pat Rowell	Gordon Grant
Psalm	James Eustis	Ann Chadwick
Lesson 2	David Batcheller	Suzanne Synnestvedt
Prayers	Francesca Wallace	Bob Fitz
Sacraments	Wallace Family	Mark & McKayala Braden
Acolyte	Ben Justesen	Sara Thompson
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team

December 2014 & January 2015

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 11:30a Coffee			11a Bible Study 12p Holy Eucharist with Healing 12:30p Lunch 7p Choir 8:30p AA Mtg	6pm Wounded Warrior Support Group		8:30p AA Mtg

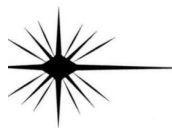
THIS MONTH at St. James' Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 November Advent 1	1 December 6:30p Cub Scouts	2 6:30p Cub Scouts	3	4 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	5	6
7 December Advent 2 11:30 Outreach Meeting 4p Lessons & Carols	8 6:30p Cub Scouts	9 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:15p Vestry	10	11 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 12:30p Book Club	12	13 9am Cookie Exchange
14 December Advent 3	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 December Advent 4 One service at 10:15am 4p Greening of Church	22	23 6:3p Cub Scouts	24 5pm Service 10pm Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 December	29	30	31	1 January New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3
4 January Epiphany 6:30p Cub Scouts	5 6:30p Cub Scouts	6 6:30p Cub Scouts	7	8 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	9	10 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
11 January Baptism of Our Lord	12 6:30p Cub Scouts	13 6:30p Scouts 7:15p Vestry	14	15 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	16	17
18 January Annual Meeting	19 MLK Day of Service	20	21	22	23	24
25 January	26	27 6:30p Cub Scouts	28	29	30	31

EVERY WEEK ~ Ghana Resurrection Methodist Church (GRM)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11:30a Class Meeting 12:30p Worship Service 3p Men's Fellowship					8p Choir	12:30p Youth 1p Leaders 7:30p Bible Study

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.



Christmas at St. James' Episcopal Church

December 7

4:00pm Advent Lessons & Carols

December 21

10:15am Service with Bishop Susan Goff
4:00 pm Greening of the Church

December 24

5pm & 10pm Christmas Eve Services

December 28

10:15am Christmas Pageant

January 4

The Feast
of the
Epiphany



St. James' Episcopal Church
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Alexandria, VA 22309-3332
703-780-3081 www.stjamesmv.org



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