



St. James' Notes



December 2016 & January 2017



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 year is rapidly coming to its end. Each day is noticeably shorter, and many of us both wake up and come home in the dark. It is no surprise that the season of Advent should occupy this season of darkness. All around us are signs of endings. But sure as the days will start growing longer, as sure as the New Year will arrive, new beginnings will rise up out of endings.

The dark season asks us, What in our life is coming to an end? What is no longer a source of life? What needs to end? And these reflections on endings invite us to ask and answer, What is coming? What new is happening among us? What is our hope, and how are we preparing for it?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Christmas remembers and celebrates the coming of the light of God into the world and into our lives. Jesus brings us the faith that no ending is actually The End; that new beginnings are all around us; that all things are being made new.

How will your life show forth the light that has come into the world, that has come into you? What kind of future do we point to, in our words and by our actions? Do not let the weight of endings prevent you from seeing what is getting started. God is at work all about us, in our endings and in our new beginnings.

In Christ,
Charles+



Mark Your Calendar

**Bishop's Visit ~
Sunday, December 11,
10:15am service**

We welcome our Assistant Bishop Ted Gulick who will visit St. James' on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. We will have one combined service that Sunday at 10:15am A festive reception will follow the service. Join us!



**Annual Parish Meeting ~
Sunday, January 22**

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.



Choir Notes

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

Layton Porter
Seminarian

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Mike Morgan
Senior Warden

Ray Smith
Junior Warden

Mark Braden
Publicity & Communications

Mary Bramley
Local & World Outreach

Dave Lowe
Plant & Property

Peggy Rudesheim
Growth & Evangelism

Francesca Wallace
Parish Family

Bill Iber
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Dear St. James' friends,

Early in *Messiah*, Handel quotes Isaiah in a bass aria, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." December and January are times of light and dark. In December's Advent as the days grow darker, we sing anticipatory hymns of a people yearning for the light of Christmas. A Star appears over Bethlehem, and we focus on the newborn Light of the World. This year's long Epiphany season offers us the opportunity to bask in that Light's glow before we enter the dark days of Lent.

Your choir and I wish you thoughtful Advent, a joyous Christmas, and a light-filled New Year.

Soli Deo gloria,
Alan



Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

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

Thanks to our many volunteers who participated in Stop Hunger Now and prepared over 10,000 meals for the hungry world wide.!



Mission and Outreach



Thank you St. James' for making 2016 another successful year in giving, volunteering, and making a difference in our community and the world. Cans of food made it possible for children in the area to never go hungry. Toys made it possible for families to have a joyous Christmas Season. Your donations made it possible for two women in farmers in Nicaragua to have a cart and a donkey to keep their farm and provide for their family. We packed over 10,000 meals, we donated over \$5,000 to our ministries, and had a great time in fellowship while doing the works that Jesus has taught us to do.

Angel Tree



Please grab a tag and bring in toys, books, and clothes to be donated to UCM's Holiday Gift Room. The UCM Holiday Gift Room relies solely on the generosity of the community. UCM client parents can browse and select gifts for their children. Items are for children up to age 14. Donated items should be new and in their original packaging. Donated items will be accepted through noon on December 9. We will also be accepting monetary donations, please write Angel Tree in the memo of your check and we will bring it with our delivery.

Martin Luther King Day of Service Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive

On Monday, January 16, 2017 invite your friends and neighbors to join you in bringing canned and non-perishable foods to church 9am to noon on MLK Monday, January 16. 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.



Episcopal Relief and Development Fund

Starting on January 1, 2017, we will begin collecting donations for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. Your donation will help fight poverty, hunger, and disease worldwide. Through Vocational Training, we will empower individuals and their communities in making an impact in their lives. Below are what we have selected to help transform lives and communities across the globe.

Make your checks payable to St. James' Episcopal Church, noting what gift you would like to give in the memo line, and place your check in the offering plate. Or drop it in the mail to the church office. We'll tabulate all, combine partial gifts, and announce the results of our campaign at the beginning of April.

- Nourishment for one child: \$15
- Water for one person: \$35
- One Disaster relief kit: \$50
- One Goat: \$80
- Vocational Training (per Student): \$100
- Water for a family: \$215

Rising Hope Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of Rising Hope Food Pantry! As always, your contributions to the Red Wagon are always greatly appreciated and greatly needed.

Food Pantry & Hot Lunch Program

Needs: Canned meats, pasta, soup, rice, dry beans, canned tomato products, Canned vegetables, fruits, beans, cereal, powdered drink mix, coffee, tea, peanut butter, jelly, salad dressing, and dish soap

Emergency Family Needs: Men, women and children's clothing for Clothing Closet, toothpaste, deodorant, walking shoes/boots, sneakers, gift cards for food

Bulletin Board

Calling for Jars

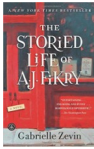
Please return all canning jars to St. James'. We will wash and sterilize them and then use them for next year's making of jams, jellies, chutney and soup mix. Collection basket in the gallery. Thanks!



Book Club

December 8 and January 12

St. James' Book Club will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00pm in the church library. December's book is *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon and January we read *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin.



Spring 2017 Yard Sale - save those items!

April 29 is the date for the next St. James' Yard Sale and Second Hand Rose Boutique. Please set aside those items you think would sell.

Collection times will be announced as we get closer to the date. (No adult clothing.) Questions? Contact Marghe Bowker, Mary Bramley, Laurie doCarmo, or Cheryl Viani.



Advent Quiet Morning, Saturday December 3, 9:30am to 2:00pm

As we enter the all-too-busy season of Advent, step away from all the activity for a morning of quiet and refreshment at St. James'. We will spend our time together in quiet reflection, drawing upon the contemplative traditions of the Church to open our selves to God's presence. There will be contemplative prayer, spiritual conversation, and quiet time. Soup and bread will be served for lunch. Please sign up in the Gallery, or let the church office know you plan to attend: office@StJamesMV.org



Thanks to those who serve Christmas Eve

	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	Mike Morgan	Ray Smith
Welcoming Team	All Team Members	All Team Members
Ushers	Peg Iber, Ellen Cleary	Ray & Marge Smith
	Marc & Kelly Rajotte	
Chalice	Bob Fitz	Mike Morgan
Lesson 1	Janet Fallin	Sara Thompson
Psalms	Francesca Wallace	Mark Braden
Lesson 2	James Eustis	Ben Justesen
Prayers	Sean Wallace	McKayala Braden
Sacraments	Wallace Family	Braden Family
Acolyte	TBA	TBA
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team

A Note from Your Senior Warden

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we are nearing Christmas and the New Year, we may peer out the window at the white powder falling gently from the sky and reflect on our accomplishments for the year, and ponder the New Year's resolutions that we must make. Or we may just say, "Where did this year go?"



Well, for our church year, let us ponder on just a few items from this past year and the year to come. Most recently, we completed another successful "Stop Hunger Now" program, preparing a little over 10,000 meals for those in need - and we could not have done it without our friends and neighbors. Perhaps we can up the ante in 2017? All of our Outreach and Mission goals have or will be met, and this is with a budget line of zero dollars. And oh, did I mention the hot lunches we prepare for Rising Hope Mission Church?

We successfully introduced our "Guardian Angel" tree for certain projects around the church building to be funded, that again, were budgeted for zero dollars. We have purchased new prayer books for our pews, re-stripped our parking lot, purchased a new banner to advertise our events and we are collecting funds for new choir lights. We also performed some major maintenance on our roof line replacing shingles and rotten wood and then painted all of our old eaves and outside windows all around the church. While we did have some budget and Guardian Angels funds for this major maintenance, the final expense was more than expected for this much needed project.

So what does this mean for 2017? Have I addressed our aging boiler and, the white elephant in the room, our mortgage? While we wring our hands over our financial situation, we still perform our more important ministries of Outreach and the spreading of the Good News of our Lord. But, we cannot ignore our stewardship and our commitments to our church. If you have not completed a commitment pledge to St. James' for 2017, please prayerfully consider it now as we prepare our budget for 2017. While we promise a balanced budget, just think of the many more programs we could support with over-flowing alms!

Sincerely, *Mike*

The Altar Guild Thanks You!

Hasn't it been nice to have flowers on the altar every Sunday? Thank you to all who signed up for memorials and thanksgiving donations. The arrangements have been lovely. The Virginia Florist, located in the Belleview Shopping Center, supplies our flowers. *Please use them for your personal orders.*

There is a flower sign-up board in the Gallery. Please check your calendar for your special days. Then sign up for 2017. You may send the form to the office now. There is one change on the form. The cost of the flowers has gone up. One arrangement now costs \$45.00, two, \$90.00. BUT, the cost to you is whatever you want to donate. Any amount is appreciated. Please mark your donation for the Flower Fund. Our church year begins on November 27, the 1st Sunday in Advent. We will have only Greens on the altar until Christmas. You may sign up for Advent Sundays. There will be a special sign up for Christmas.

The greening of the church, decorating for the Christmas season, will be Sunday afternoon, December 18 at 4:30pm. Everyone is asked to come and help. Thanks to all for making our place of worship more beautiful.



Schedule of Ministry ~ December 4 to January 1

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25	January 1
	Advent 2	Bishop's Visit	Advent 4	Christmas Day	New Year's Day
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Ted Gullick	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Mike Morgan	Francesca Wallace	Mark Braden	Mary Bramley	Dave Lowe
Welcoming Team	Jane Wosoogh	Lib Mueller	Laurie doCarmo	Marge Smith	Mike Morgan
Ushers	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Wayne Johnson Barbara Riley	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Mike Morgan Ellen Cleary
	8:00am	Only 10:15am service this day.	8:00am	Only 10:15am service this day.	Only 10:15am service this day.
Chalice	Stan Dawson		David Batcheller		
Lector	Nebiyou Tesfaye		Janet Fallin		
Psalm	Stan Dawson		David Batcheller		
Prayers	Mike Morgan		Mark Braden		
	10:00am		10:00am		
Sunday School	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	No Sunday School	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Amber Tussing	Mary Bramley	Marghe Bowker	Bill Iber	Pat Rowell
Reader	Bob Fitz	Stan Dawson	Cheryl Nostrand	Volunteers	
Psalm	Mary Lowe	Mary Blair	Nancy Sherick		
Prayers	Mike Morgan	Bob Blair	Peg Iber		
Sacraments	Wallace Family	Laurie doCarmo Ben Wosoogh	Anne Patrick Ellen Cleary		
Acolyte	Pat Rowell	TBA	TBA		
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	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

The Christmas Eve Schedule of Ministry is on page 4.
The January Schedule of Ministry will be available in late December.

December 2016 and 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
27 November Advent 1	28	29	30	1 December 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	2	3 Advent Quiet Morning 9:30am to 1:00pm
4 December Advent 2	5	6 7:15p Vestry	7	8 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1p Book Club	9	10 9am Cookie Exchange Brotherhood and Daughters
11 December Advent 3	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 December Advent 4 4:30p Greening of Church	19	20	21	22	23	24 5pm Service 10pm Service
25 December 10:15a One Service	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 January	2	3	4	5 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	6 Epiphany Region Wide Pageant	7 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
8 January Baptism of Our Lord	9	10 7:15p Vestry	11	12 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1p Book Club	13	14
15 January	16 MLK Day of Service	17	18	19	20	21
22 January Annual Meeting 10:15a One Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 January	30	31	1 February	2 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	3	4

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Christmas at St. James' Episcopal Church

December 11, 10:15am only
Service with Bishop Ted Gulick

December 18, 4:30 pm
Greening of the Church

December 24, 5pm & 10pm
Christmas Eve Services

December 25, 10:15am only
Christmas Day Service

January 1, 2017, 10:15am only
New Year's Day Service