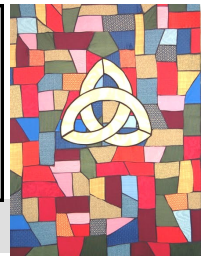




St. James' Notes



Volume 53, Issue 2

February 2016



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 may be the beginning of the liturgical year, but Lent feels like the beginning of the spiritual calendar. Lent is the season when many people feel a pull to come back to church, to recommit themselves to making a place for God in their lives. The season of Lent, with its disciplines and penitential focus, is a powerful time for seekers to step out on their spiritual journey.



Lent is above all a season of opening ourselves up to God's transforming power. Confessing our sins in the confidence of God's forgiveness frees us from the bonds of our past; fasting and disciplining our selves teaches us to rely on God to do those things that we cannot accomplish ourselves. Making time to read and study scripture is a way we make time for God to speak to us, and prayer is how we open ourselves to listen to what he is saying to us.

We want more people to join us at St. James! And Lent is a great time to invite friends, neighbors, and others to join you for Sunday morning worship, or to come to the Sunday evening supper programs, or to help cook a meal for Rising Hope, or to attend a meeting of the Brotherhood or the Daughters. It's a great time to invite people because it is a time when people are naturally drawn to what the church has to offer.

We want more people to join us at St. James! But to be clear... we don't want them to join us because we need them to help us pay our mortgage, or to help do the work we are doing. We want them to join us because we are incomplete without them. We want them to join us because we know that God is doing something special in every one of us. We want them because God wants them.

In Christ,
Charles

Sunday Evening Lent Program

Approaching the Easter Mystery

Sunday, February 21 through March 13, 5:30pm
Soup & Salad Supper 6:00-7:00pm, Program followed by Compline



This year our Sunday evening Lent Program will be led by the Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales. Rosemary is a chaplain and religion teacher at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, an Episcopal Day School in Alexandria. Rosemary is also a nationally recognized teacher of Godly Play, a powerful method of presenting Bible stories. She will guide us to reflect on stories central to the Easter story: the Exodus liberation of the Hebrew people; the many faces in which Jesus reveals himself; and the gift of Holy Baptism. Please join us on these Sunday evenings as we walk the journey of Lent together.

Mission and Outreach

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

Mike Morgan
Senior Warden

Eric Katz
Junior Warden /Christian Education

Mark Braden
Publicity & Communications

Mary Bramley
Local & World Outreach

Dave Lowe
Plant & Property

Peggy Rudesheim
Growth & Evangelism

Ray Smith
Administration & Finance

Francesca Wallace
Parish Family

Bill Iber
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Martin Luther King Day, 2016, started off bitter cold and very slow. By noon, we had collected two car-fuls of food for United Community Ministries (UCM) to distribute to local families. St. James' folks and non-parishioners showed up to restock shelves, empty after the holidays. It was a fun time of meeting new people and visiting with each other over a warm cup of coffee. Thanks all for helping and donating.



Stop Hunger Now Update

In November St. James' members and friends met to assemble 10,000 meals for the hungry through the Stop Hunger Now Program. We also sent a financial contribution to help with the distribution of these meals to those most hungry in our world. We recently received a notice that our meals were part of a container totaling 280,368 meals sent to Swaziland. As you may know Swaziland is in the Southeastern part of Africa. Stop Hunger Now partners with the Salesian Mission network who work to enable the poor and suffering children in Swaziland to live better lives and build brighter futures. The addition of Stop Hunger Now meals provides for the nutritional needs of the students enrolled in the many programs supported by the Mission. Thank you!

Bulletin Board

Book Club– Join us!

We meet the second Thursday of each month at 1:00pm in the church library. There are snacks, good conversation and great reads. Mark your calendars and get your books for the months ahead.

February 11 **The Light Between Oceans** by ML Stedman
March 10 **Orphan Train** by Christina Baker Kline
April 14 **Buddha in the Attic** by Julie Otsuka
May 12 TBA



From the Senior Warden

Snowzilla has past, and here comes spring? Maybe not soon enough for most of us, but hopefully we won't have to bring out the snow shovels again until next year. Hopefully, you had no major issues, but remember as your church parish, we are also your church family. So please, never hesitate to call on us should you need help. Our Daughters of the King, Brotherhood members and other church groups are eager to help in all circumstances, whether you need prayer, a ride or any other type of assistance.



Please sign up for February 9, Pancake Supper & Talent Show - Or, at least attend - we always run out of pancakes and sausage, so don't come too late. Maybe your talent could be eating pancakes! There is a sign-up sheet in the gallery or call the church office to sign up.

Thank you all of you who were able to attend our Annual Meeting (and pot luck feast!) on January 17 to reflect on our year past and on our year forward. Our budget is our reminder of our good stewardship requirements and we yet again brought a balanced budget into 2016, with some tight strings attached. And with the guidance of Father Charles, we mentioned bringing "new life" into our building with the signing of a contract with The Vine Preschool, which has been a major success.

At the Annual Meeting I promised a list of dates of our major events so that you can better prepare and set aside those dates. As mentioned before, the Pancake Supper is coming up next. We have a special Lenten program on Sunday evenings in Lent (Feb. 21, 28, March 6, and 13.) The 2016 Art & Craft Fair is September 17, and there will be many events in-between that I promise to let you know about. Mark your calendars and plan to attend all of these great activities—we can't do it without you!

We bade farewell to our departing Vestry members with a big thank you to Cheryl Viani, Marghe Bowker, Mary Jane Van den Berg and Sara Thompson. Their contributions were enormous the past few years and they will be missed from the Vestry but they will not disappear - in fact, some have already committed towards helping in their areas of interest in 2016. We newly welcome four members to the Vestry - Ray Smith, Peggy Rudesheim, Dave Lowe and Mary Bramley. Please thank them for volunteering for their service. You can prayerfully consider yourself for running in the next term, which will not be until 2018 as no one will be scheduled to come off the Vestry next year. (hmmmm two years to think about it!)

The new Vestry elected its officers and I am your new Senior Warden. I am honored to fill this role, and with God's grace and direction we will move forward in our mission. At our January 30 meeting, we elected Eric Katz as our Junior Warden, Bill Iber as Treasurer, and Marge Smith as our Register.

I thank Cheryl Viani, our former Senior Warden for her service to the church, and for her covering for me on several occasions as Jr. Warden. With Plant & Property responsibilities, I was kept busy, but look forward to the year ahead with the new Vestry and with Father Charles to continue serving the needs of the parish.

Mike Morgan

News from the Diocese

The 221 Annual Council meeting was snowed out. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 5. Our delegates and Father Charles will be sharing with the congregation the highlights of the meeting.

There was an Antiracism Workshop in our Region held in November and over 50 people attended. We will be announcing the next Workshop and encourage you to attend.



Choir Notes

Dear Friends,

I want to brag about your choir.

Although they are few in number, they are mighty in their determination to provide outstanding leadership in worship through their music. During the course of 2015, there was music for sixty worship services, including two offerings of choral evensong and of morning prayer with music. Over 250 different hymns were sung, and we used twenty different pieces of service music for the liturgies. We continued to sing the psalms during Lent and Eastertide. The choir sang fifty anthems of various styles, dating from the Renaissance to the work of composers who are still living.



Not everything is the Sunday “routine.” As mentioned above, the choir sang Evensong on Trinity Sunday and All Saints’ Day. For these, the choir learned two different settings of the *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis*, as well as a setting of the Preces and Responses for Evening Prayer with the coincidentally appropriate title, *St. James’ Responses*. On Christmas Eve, the choir presented a festive prelude with two anthems in addition to two anthems during the service.

In September, we participated in a choir retreat at St. James’ Episcopal Church in Leesburg, where we were tutored by their long-time director of music and Shenandoah University Professor Emeritus Dr. Stephen Cooksey. We also held a “mini-retreat” in the spring to prepare for the music of Holy Week. They even ask for additional rehearsal time when they are intent on getting an anthem “just right”.

So, what does it take to prepare all this? 10 people, about 1100 rehearsal hours. At an average wage for musicians, that’s equivalent to a contribution of over twenty five thousand dollars just in preparation time. And that’s over and above the contributions your choir makes in other areas of church life. They do this with great enthusiasm and love. The members of the choir demonstrate the strong heartbeat of church life at St. James’. Their leadership and dedication is appreciated. I am their biggest fan, and hope you are in that fan club, too.

Soli Deo gloria,

Alan Moser



Prayers

PRAYER LIST

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Meghan, Christine, Muriel, Muriel Sue, Esther, Nora, Jenny, Roger, Wayne, Mary, Jeff, George, Barbara, Andy, Ward, Susanne, Glendora, Eloise (the Fitz’s granddaughter), Sara

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 and all those injured or wounded.

February Birthdays

- 1 Jordan Iber
- 8 Sam Brock
- 8 Rachel McDonald
- 17 Bob Whitehouse
- 20 Jeremy Iber



Daughters of the King



The annual rededication of the Daughters of the King will be held during the 10:15am worship service on Sunday, February 7. Contact Cheryl Nostrand canostrandus@aol.com (703) 495-8221 for information. This is a good time to become a member of this service organization. All women and girls are welcome.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

January 17, 2016

Father Charles Brock called the Annual Meeting of the Parish to order at 11:30am. He led the parish in the opening prayers.

The minutes for the 2015 Parish Meeting were presented. Bob Fitz moved that the minutes be approved as written. Francesca Rusk-Wallace seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

In the absence of Treasurer Bill Iber, Junior Warden Mike Morgan presented the Year-End Financial Report for 2015. Mike discussed the actual receipts and expenditures and answered questions concerning his report.

Mike Morgan, Junior Warden, presented the Budget for 2016. Mike discussed the individual line items and answered questions. Alan thanked the Vestry for his salary increase.

Fr. Charles presented the nominees for Vestry: Mary Bramley, David Lowe, Peggy Rudesheim and Ray Smith. He thanked them for their willingness to serve. Mike called for nominees from the floor. There being none, a motion to elect the nominees by acclamation was made by Sara Thompson. Heidi Brock seconded the motion and the nominees were elected by a unanimous vote.

Cheryl Viani, outgoing Senior Warden, thanked Ray and Marge Smith for their help throughout the past year. She also thanked Ellen Cleary, Marge Katz and Mary Jane Van den Berg for organizing the Pot-Luck luncheon today. She also thanked the 2015 Vestry for their cooperation and hard work. Cheryl recognized and presented gifts to the outgoing Vestry members: Mary Jane Van den Berg, Marghe Bowker and Sara Thompson.

Mike Morgan, Junior Warden, presented Cheryl with a gift from the Vestry and thanked her for her leadership and dedicated service.

Fr. Charles said that 2015 had been a good year, with good worship, great music, successful adult education and outreach. He mentioned the special events during the year, the Yard Sale and the Art & Craft Fair and thanked their leadership. We now have The Vine Preschool using our facilities which is a great help to our finances. He also thanked the outgoing Vestry members for their service.

Fr. Charles closed the meeting with prayer and a dismissal at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Marge Smith*, Register

2015 Annual Report available at www.stjamesmv.org

Schedule of Ministry ~ February 7 to March 6

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28	March 6
	Last Epiphany	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4
	Scout Sunday DOK Rededication				
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones	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	Ellen Cleary	Laurie doCarmo	Eric Katz	Mike Morgan
Ushers	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Mike Morgan Ellen Cleary	Eric Katz Barbara Riley
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	Vicky Vivian	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Stan Dawson	Paul Vivian
Lector	Stan Dawson	Agnes Chapman	Janet Fallin	Vicky Vivian	David Batcheller
Psalm	Vicky Vivian	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Stan Dawson	Paul Vivian
Prayers	Mike Morgan	Francesca Wallace	Mark Braden	Mary Bramley	Dave Lowe
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe	Eric Katz Marge Katz	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Bob Fitz	Mike Morgan	Pat Rowell	Mary Bramley	Amber Tussing
Lesson 1	Cub Scouts	Marghe Bowker	Francesca Wallace	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Sean Wallace
Lesson 2	Cub Scouts	McKayla Braden	Mary Lowe	Cheryl Nostrand	Nancy Sherick
Prayers	Sean Wallace	James Eustis	Mark Braden	Mike Morgan	Ben Justesen
Sacraments	Cub Scouts	Lib Mueller Barbara Riley	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Wallace Family	Ellen Cleary MJ Van Den Berg
Acolyte	Ben Justesen	Amber Tussing	Pat Rowell	Sara Thompson	Sara Thompson
Nursery Volunteer	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team

Ash Wednesday ~ February 10, 7:30pm

Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person of Day	Ray Smith
Welcoming Team	Ray Smith
Ushers	Ray & Marge Smith
Chalice	Sara Thompson
Lectors	Gordon Grant, Bob Fitz

Prayers	Ben Justesen
Sacraments	Braden Family
Acolyte	Sara Thompson
Organist	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Iber Team

February 2016

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
31 January 4th Epiphany	1 6:30p Cub Scouts	2 6:30p Cub Scouts	3 6:30p Cub Scouts	4 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	5	6
7 February Epiphany Last Scout Sunday DOK Rededication 6:30p Cub Scouts	8 6:30p Cub Scouts	9 Shrove Tuesday 6pm Pancake Supper & Talent Show	10 Ash Wednesday Services Noon and 7:30pm	11 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1:00pm Book Club	12	13 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
14 February Lent 1 6:30p Cub Scouts	15 Presidents' Day <i>Office closed</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21 February Lent 2 5:30p Lenten Program with Soup & Salad 6:30p Cub Scouts	22 6:30p Cub Scouts	23 6:30p Cub Scouts	24	25	26	27
28 February Lent 3 5:30p Lenten Program with Soup & Salad	29 6:30p Cub Scouts	1 March 6:30p Cub Scouts	2	3 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	4	5

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

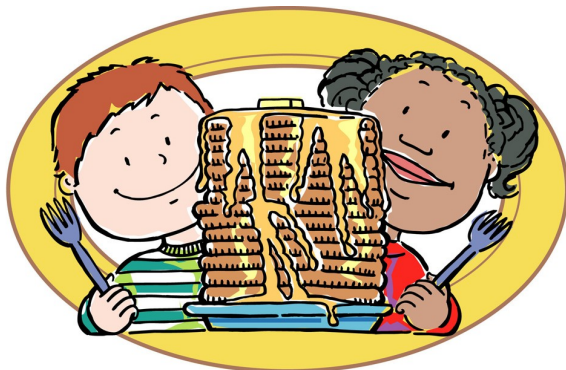
PAID

PERMIT NO. 14
MOUNT VERNON, VA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pancake Supper & Talent Show February 9

Plan to come at 6:00pm for Pancake
Supper and Talent Show.
Bring your appetite and your
talents—enjoy!



Ash Wednesday
February 10
12:00pm & 7:30pm
Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes