



St. James' Notes



February 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',

We are God's dream, and we are God's dreamers.

And that leads me to ask, What are our dreams for the future of St. James'?

And more, how do we commit ourselves to those dreams?

Money is a concern. But money is not the church. The church is the people, and how we act together in pursuit of our shared dream.

We have a highly involved church, but so many are aging and unable to lead the way that they once did. Ministries that once thrived are now struggling. New and younger members are entering the church, but with different sorts of lives and priorities than the past. The church is changing.

The question is, what does the future of the church look like? What dream is God calling us to? How do we hold on to what is essential while embracing change? What new ministries, activities, and leaders will emerge to nourish our faith and to serve others? How is Jesus going to make himself known?

God is doing a new thing here, and change is difficult. But we have faith that God is with us here, and God's dreams are the dreams that bring us to life.

In Christ, Charles+



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Martin Luther King Day, 2020

The MLK food drive was a success. Thank you to all the volunteers and folks who donated food to UC that will be distributed to those in our area who are the most needy. We collected nearly 700 pounds of food! We could not have done it without your support.



St. James' Episcopal Church at Mount Vernon

The Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan & Ecclesiastical Authority

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

New Vestry

Diana Courtney (2020)
Sr. Warden, Christian Education

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Jr. Warden, Plant & Property

Mckayla Braden (2022)
Mission & Outreach

Mary Bramley (2023)
Administration & Finance

James Eustis (2023)
Evangelism & Publicity

Mary Jane Van den Berg (2021)
Parish Activities

Andy Wormser (2023)
Fundraising

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Susan Clark
Register

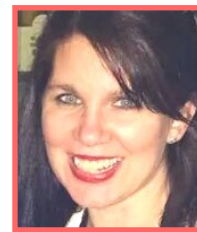
Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

From the Junior Warden

A Box of Chocolates

*“You spoke my world into existence, Designed my mind and soul even knowing,
That I would be the one to break your heart”*



These are some of the lyrics to one of my favorite “love songs” by a Christian band called Building 429. While it’s not one of your typical mushy, sappy love songs, it moves me by giving me just the slightest glimmer of how deep and unfathomable God’s love for all of us truly is. I honestly can’t even begin to imagine what being able to love someone like this even means. Think back to your first heartbreak: would you have gone out on that first date if you had known that down the road that person would end up breaking your heart? Knowing that skipping that first date would avoid a whole world of restless nights, puffy eyes, pits in your stomach, and seemingly endless hurt and pain, would you still have gone through with it? Not many people would answer yes to these questions.

We live in a world that makes it difficult to show this kind of love to our neighbors; mainly because our neighbors don’t always show this kind of love to us. Yet we aren’t called to model the love that our neighbors show; we are called to model the love the Jesus shows. To love knowing that you may not get anything in return; knowing that sharing that love may be painful and hard.

So read the lyrics again. God *knowing* that we were going to cause him heartache and pain (time and time again) still chose to create us and love us. And no matter how many times we say hurtful things to Him or about Him, “ghost” Him by not talking to Him for months or maybe even years, or “cheat” on Him with others (money, jobs, food, other idols, etc.), He *still* wants to be in a relationship with us. Wow!

I pray that during this month that is so focused on love, that you get experience Jesus’ kind of love- both as the giver and the receiver. That you experience the kind of love is not all about cupid’s and hearts and chocolates and flowers. Because this kind of love’s reward is far greater than a box of chocolates.

Diana Courtney

Your New Vestry

At the Annual Meeting we elected new Vestry members. Diana Courtney will be our new Senior Warden and Chis Marbaker will be Junior Warden. Mary Bramley will serve as Administration & Finance. Diana Courtney will do Christian Education. James Eustis will be in charge of Evangelism and Publicity. Andy Wormer will do Fundraising (a new position). Mckayla Braden will do Mission & Outreach. Mary Jane Van den Berg will continue as Parish Activities. Plant & Property Vestry person will be Chris Marbaker and this position will have a committee to assist. Mike Morgan will be our Treasurer. And Susan Clark will continue to serve as Register. Thank you to outgoing Vestry members Ben Justesen and Rosemarie Richard. We appreciate all of their service.



From the Senior Warden

As I write this column, we are preparing to hold our annual parish meeting, vestry election, and church luncheon. By the time you read this, I will no longer be serving as your senior warden, but as I prepare to depart, I wanted to offer my reflections on the past year—a fitting way for me to hand off the baton of church leadership to the next vestry generation and head back into the trenches.



It has truly been a privilege for me to serve as senior warden during this past year—an exciting time in the parish life of St. James' Episcopal Church—and I believe I have been able to accomplish most of the goals I set for myself at the beginning of 2019.

On a personal note, I am happy to report that among many projects, we completed the installation of new windows in our beautiful sanctuary—my favorite single project!!—and finally installed gutter guards around the church building, my second favorite project (no more climbing up on a ladder with a huge yard waste bag). There is more to do, of course—there is always one more project...

But my overriding goal during the past year has been far more important to me: to inspire others in the church family, as much as I could, to continue serving as volunteers in ways both small and large, from preserving and improving our physical church plant to assisting the neediest people in our community beyond the church doors. I have been inspired, in return, by your dedication—each time I enter the church for an errand, I invariably encounter a small group of workers ahead of me, reminding me that we are all in this together.

We are a small but dedicated church, now into our seventh decade of service, with a proud tradition of outreach. There are so many ways to serve ourselves and our larger community. Your thoughts and ideas for new service projects are always welcome, and your vestry is open to hearing them. So don't be shy!

It is my fervent hope that in the year to come, we will continue to invent new ways to raise funds as a parish—both to show our love for God and for each other—and to hold high the banner of St. James' as an example for other parishes to follow.

Thanks be to God!

Ben Justesen

Evangelism

As we inaugurate this new year, 2020 - (where has all the time gone?) - I want to give thanks for the many blessings we have at St. James' and in Northern Virginia. We have a loving community of friends and family at our church as evidence by Father Charles and his thoughtful worship services - especially Casual Church the first Sunday of each month; our coffee hour when gather to just say hello and share conversation and food; and the offerings of all kinds that each of us contributes throughout the year: flowers for the church and garden, our singing, and teaching of our darling, energetic children; and monthly cooking for Rising Hope - to only name a few examples.

Our lives are so busy that its hard to find the time to sit down and contemplate our good fortunes and how best to share Jesus' love in our community. St. James' gives us the opportunity to do that every Sunday; and even when we can't be in church on Sundays, the love and support we garner from our church reaches us every day wherever we are. I find I just want to sit still and listen for our Lord as often as I can, to let him guide us on how we can best share with others God's love. Now that we are in the second month of this new year and decade, please help spread the word about the loving and compassionate St. James' community. Invite your friends and neighbors to discover the spiritual bounty St. James' has to offer. Happy new year to our St. James' community, blessings to you each and every day. **In your own special way, please spend some part of it with our Lord.**

Mckayla Braden

Mission & Outreach

First Quarter Mission 2020

Please join us in giving to the Episcopal Relief and Development "Gifts for Life" fund. Your donations will help needy families across the world alleviate hunger and be able to grow/their own food. 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 on Sunday. Or drop it in the mail to the church office. We'll tabulate all, combine partial gifts, and announce the results of our campaign in April.

\$15 will provide nourishment for one child supporting tomorrow's minds today.

\$35 will provide a family with life's most basic necessity - clean water.

\$35 will provide care for a vulnerable mom and her baby.

\$80 will provide a family in need with a goat. A goat can provide a family with a stable source of food and earnings.

\$100 will provide vocational training to help one student pursue a brighter future.

Bulletin Board

We painted the steeple and it looks so bright!



Next time you come to church—take a look. This was one of the many building improvement projects that got accomplished in 2019. Thank you to all those that made this possible.

SAVE THE DATE - Shrine Mont

Our annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont in the beautiful, majestic mountains of Virginia will be the weekend of July 3-5. Yes we will get to spend July 4th in the mountains! More information to follow.



Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Our church needs a few more volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild. As a member of the Altar Guild, you will be on one of two rotating teams that help with the important mission of setting up and taking down materials needed for Sunday worship. Training is offered, and please know that both men and women are encouraged to volunteer. Please contact Cheryl Viani at (703)360-8799 if you are interested.



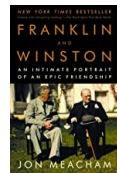
New Cookers needed for Rising Hope Meals Ministry

The job is to make 2 casseroles, recipe provided, for the first or second Thursday of each month. Five cookers are on each team, so we have some flexibility in case you are traveling. These folks greatly appreciate a home-cooked meal. Please speak to Marghe Bowker, marge.bowker@gmail.com, Laurie doCarmo or Father Charles if you can help with this important & rewarding ministry.



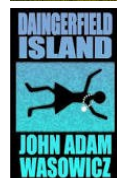
Daughters of the King

The annual rededication of the Daughters of the King will be held during the 10:15am worship service on Sunday, February 9. Contact Mary Bramley for information. This is a good time to become a member of this service organization. All women and girls are welcome.



Book Club

St. James' Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 13, and we will discuss *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship* by Jon Meacham. The following month we meet March 12 and are reading *Dangerfield Island* by John Adam Wasowicz. Questions? Call Lib Mueller at (703) 360-0561. Everyone is welcome. Join us!



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

As I have been working to put together hymns and anthems for the coming weeks, I noticed that in the Episcopal calendar of feasts and fasts, Martin Luther is celebrated on February 18. A quick look at his biography connected the dots for me: that is the anniversary of his death in 1546. But then I looked a little more at the calendar and some other names caught my eye: Francis Jane Van Alstyne (better known as Fanny Crosby) (1820-1915), remembered on February 12, and George Herbert (1593-1633), celebrated on February 27. Why these three? Because of the great gifts of hymns that have come to us over the years as a result of their faith and devotion as reflected in their poetry. Luther left hymns for all seasons of the liturgical year, many based on the Psalms and other scripture passages. We remember best, perhaps, *A Mighty Fortress*, based on Psalm 46. Fanny Crosby wrote over eight thousand hymns, among them *Blessed Assurance*, *To God be the Glory*, and *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*. By the way, she wrote these her poetry in her head and dictated it; Fanny Crosby was blind. (And yes, she was a relative of a well-known singer nicknamed "Bing.") Several Hymns of George Herbert, an Anglican priest, can be found in *Hymnal 1982*, including *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*; *King of Glory*, *King of Peace*; and *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing*.

May we always give thanks for those like Martin Luther, Fanny Crosby and George Herbert, who have left us legacies of faith and music, and in our own lives always lift up God in song!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Alan Moser



Birthdays

Happy
Birthday

- 1 Jordan Iber
- 8 Sam Brock
- 8 Rachel McDonald
- 20 Jeremy Iber

We Want to Include You

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here, please let us know so that we can include you. You may email to office@stjamesmv.org or call (703) 780-3081. Thanks!



Want a Directory?

We have printed directories. They are available on the credenza by the church office or you can email Jenny and she will send you a pdf or a printed version. Office@stjamesmv.org



Parish Family News

Now you can celebrate your birthday for a whole month! In addition to the personal Birthday Blessings offered every Sunday during church, the last Sunday of the month will be Birthday Sunday! Come to Coffee Hour on the last Sunday to share cake and celebrate your birthday or extend birthday wishes to this month's celebrants. No need to reveal your age, just invite your friends and celebrate each other!

We continue to offer coffee before Casual Church on the first Sunday of the month. Feel free to bring your own covered mug.

Please sign up on the board in Braxton Hall to bring Coffee Hour treats. Thank you to all who have been helping with Coffee Hour. The treats you bring and your help with set up and clean up are greatly appreciated!

Mary Jane Van den Berg



Schedule of Ministry ~ February 2 to March 1


	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	March 1
	Presentation of Our Lord	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	Last Epiphany	Lent 1
	Casual Church	DOK Rededication			Casual Church
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	McKayla Braden	Diana Courtney	James Eustis	Chris Marbaker	May Jane Van Den Berg
Ushers	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Mary Blair Ellen Cleary	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Chad Duffield Susan Clark	Bob Blair Mary Blair
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	David Batcheller	Ray Bonniwell	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Ray Bonniwell
Lesson 1	Ray Bonniwell	TBD	Andy Wormser	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman
Lesson 2	Agnes Chapman	Janet Fallin	Tim Myers	Ray Bonniwell	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas
Prayers	David Batcheller	Ray Bonniwell	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Ray Bonniwell
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Heidi Brock	No Sunday School	Katie Eustis	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Mike Morgan	Mary Bramley	Bill Iber	Marghe Bowker	Peg Iber
Lesson 1	Casual Church	McKayla Braden	Mike Morgan	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Casual Church
Psalm		Mary Blair	Ally Duffield	Mark Braden	
Lesson 2		Peg Iber	James Eustis	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	
Prayers		Cheryl Nostrand	John Thompson	Ryan Duffield	
Sacraments	Peg Iber Ellen Cleary	McKayla Braden Peg Iber	Duffield Family	Laurie doCarmo Anne Patrick	Mark & McKayla Braden
Acolyte	Ryan Duffield	Amber Tussing	Ben Justesen	Ally Duffield	Ryan Duffield
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Bill Iber	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Bill Iber
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Iber Team

February 2020

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
26 January Epiphany 3	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 February Epiphany 4 Casual Church	3	4	5	6 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	7	8 Sam Brotherhood
9 February Epiphany 5 DOK Rededication	10	11 7:15pm Vestry	12	13 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1pm Book Club	14 	15
16 February Epiphany 6	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 February Epiphany 7	24	25 6pm Pancake Supper & Talent Show	26 Ash Wednesday Services at noon & 7:30pm	27	28	29
1 March Lent I Casual Church	2	3	4	5 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	6	7

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.



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This Month at St. James'

Casual Church Sunday, February 2 10:15 am

Casual Church is a worship service designed to be especially welcoming to families and people seeking a church home. Informal and inclusive, we'll mix up our regular Sunday worship to make something fresh and inspiring for all. After the service there will be activities for the children and social time for adults. You will want to invite your friends and neighbors to Casual Church on the first Sunday of each month.

Come and see!

Pancake Supper & Talent Show Tuesday, February 25 6:00pm



Ash Wednesday February 26 12:00pm & 7:30pm

Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes

