



St. James' Notes



February 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',

2016 was a good year for St. James', in Service, Formation, and Worship.

- As a community we contributed over 1000 hours and over \$15,000 to support the poor and the hungry, through the Missions of the Quarter, the weekly Red Wagon Food Offering, the Rising Hope Food Ministry, and Stop Hunger Now. This year our Martin Luther King Day Food Drive collected over 800 lbs. of food... next year let's collect 1000 lbs!

- The Rev. Rosemary Beales led our Lenten program, using Godly Play to explore the Paschal Mystery. We had a wonderful church retreat at Shrine Mont, on the them of Holy Listening. And we entered the Advent Season with a peaceful morning of silent reflection.

- The church worship was filled with spirit, as we celebrated baptisms,, funerals, and the liturgies of Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. Of special note was the service on Reformation Sunday, in celebration of the Unity of the Church.

2016 was our first full year with the Vine Preschool in residence. Kim Vargas, her staff, and all of the children in the preschool program have contributed greatly to the life and activity of the church.

Due to a drop in vendor participation, we decided to end our Art & Craft Fair fundraiser. We also undertook a large unbudgeted maintenance project. Even so, we ended up with a significant surplus... although that money is committed to restoring our previous debt to our Restricted Accounts.

Good church is happening here. We are feeding people, loving our neighbors, and serving one another in the name of Jesus.

I believe our challenge as we look forward is to look back, and reconnect with the passion that caused St. James' to be planted here nearly 60 years ago. What need was it that St. James' was founded to serve? Why are we here? Who is our neighbor? Whom do we serve? How do we serve them?

How we together engage with these questions will guide how we discern our future. How we answer these questions will help us invite others to be part of the mission of St. James'.

**In Christ,
Charles+**

P.S. Please be sure to download a copy of the 2016 *Annual Report* from the church website: www.StJamesMV.org



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
Seminararian

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Ray Smith
Senior Warden

Mark Braden
Mary Bramley
Ben Justesen
Rosemarie Richard
Peggy Rudesheim
Francesca Wallace

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Dear St. James' friends,

This year's calendar brings us a long Epiphany season. According to the Episcopal Church, the Epiphany season is ...

A season of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.¹

With that definition in mind, I have been looking at the hymn texts in our *Hymnal 1982*, as well as at the lectionary and art associated with the various readings for the season. After all that, I realized that anthems for the season tell us the life story of Jesus and what he has taught us about living our lives.

Among the anthems for this season, the choir has already sung or will sing texts from Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts, a spiritual preserved by John Work III, a leading musicologist and director of the Fisk University singers, texts from the psalms, the old testament, and the gospel of Matthew. Composers date from the sixteenth century through to contemporary neighbors like the Rev. Dr. Bill Roberts, professor of church music at Virginia Theological Seminary. Whatever the source, it is clear to me that we continue, as in the definition, *to respond to Christ in faith (and in music) through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season*. I hope our music will help you to be inspired in your response as well.

**Soli Deo gloria,
Alan**

1. *Armentrout, Donald S., and Robert Boak Slocum. 1999. An Episcopal dictionary of the church: a user-friendly reference for Episcopalians. New York: Church Pub.*



Martin Luther King Day, 2017

We collected two full car-loads of food (over 800lbs!) 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. Thanks all for helping and donating.

Mission and Outreach

Episcopal Relief and Development Fund

We have begun 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 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

About Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church

Rising Hope Mission Church serves the poorest in our neighborhood. In an average year it reaches nearly 8,000 individuals, supplies 2,000 families with food, and serves 18,000 hot lunches to the hungry. In addition to worship, Rising Hope offers Bible study, mentoring, and substance abuse counseling. Rising Hope connects the spiritual with the practical through job fairs, interview preparation, budgeting and financial classes, HIV testing, jail visitation, emergency housing referrals, summer Bible camp and more. Nearly 2/3 of Rising Hope's members are, or have been, homeless; many of its successful "graduates" return to volunteer. Rising Hope depends upon fits and grants from volunteers and non-profit organizations for its funding — it does not receive any Federal financial support.

Hot Lunches for Rising Hope

St. James' volunteers prepare and deliver hot lunches twice each month to 70 people at Rising Hope Mission Church. These folks are the areas poorest along our Route 1 corridor. Each lunch is so appreciated by those being fed. If you would like to help, please call Peggy Rudesheim at (703) 781-0474. The "cookers" are divided into teams so you only need to cook once a month. Thanks!

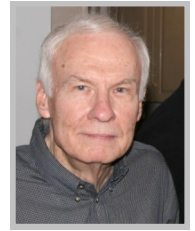


Spring 2017 Yard Sale - save those items!

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.

A Note from Your Senior Warden

Even though New Year's Day was a few weeks ago, I believe that New Year's Day for the St. James' Vestry was on January 22, when we had our Annual Parish Meeting. On that day we elected 2 new Vestry members, Ben Justesen and Rosemarie Richard.



Immediately after that meeting the Vestry met, signed the Vestry oath and elected officers. The next two weeks are devoted to organization, planning and revision of the Vestry Manual. Every year the change in Vestry members necessitates restructuring of the Vestry assignments and developing new duty schedules. Planning involves what programs, events and goals there will be for the coming year. On February 4, the Vestry will meet for a retreat and orientation. After this meeting the Vestry is ready to serve the church in their assigned Vestry positions.

The Vestry very much needs the continuing participation and support of the parish. Some areas of opportunity for service are worship services, Sunday School, Sunday morning coffee, social and fundraising events, outreach, etc.

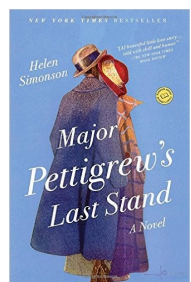
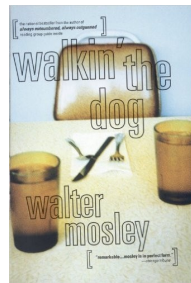
If you are asked to serve in some way, I hope you will say yes. Even better, don't wait to be asked but volunteer to serve in some area of interest to you. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

Ray Smith

Bulletin Board

Book Club

Read with us! The book club meets once a month in the church library to share thoughts, hot coffee and fellowship. We have a schedule of what we are reading and invite anyone to join us! Our next meeting is Thursday, February 9, 1pm and we will discuss *Walkin' the Dog* by Walter Mosley. In March we meet on Thursday, March 9, 1pm and will discuss *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.



Altar Flowers at St. James'

Thank you to everyone who so generously gives to the St. James' flower fund so we can have beautiful flowers on the Altar each Sunday.



If you would like to give flowers in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one, please see the sign-up poster in the gallery. Mark your name next to the date you would like. Take a form that you can fill out and return to the church office at least one week before your flower date so we can announce your gift in the Sunday bulletin. Any donation amount is welcome. Usually \$70 is sufficient to completely cover the cost of both arrangements on the Sunday altar. You are certainly free to take the flowers home with you after the worship service. Thank you!



The annual rededication of the Daughters of the King will be held during the 10:15am worship service on Sunday, February 12. Contact Peg Iber

(703) 569-5845 for information. This is a good time to become a member of this service organization. All women and girls are welcome.

Happy Birthday



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

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

January 22, 2017

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

The minutes of the 2016 Parish Meeting were presented. Bob Fitz moved that the minutes be approved as written. Suzanne Synnestvedt seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Parish Treasurer Bill Iber presented the Year-End Financial Report for 2016. Bill discussed the actual receipts and expenditures and answered questions concerning his report.

Ray Smith, Junior Warden, presented the Budget for 2017. Ray discussed the individual line items and answered questions.

Ray Smith presented the nominees for Vestry: Ben Justesen and Rosemarie Richard. He thanked them for their willingness to serve. Fr. Charles called for nominees from the floor. There being none, a motion to elect the nominees by acclamation was made by Ray. Jane Fitz seconded the motion and the nominees were elected by a unanimous vote.

Mike Morgan, Senior Warden, recognized the outgoing Vestry members Eric Katz and David Lowe and thanked them for their service. He recognized Bill Iber outgoing Treasurer of the Parish with a gift and thanks for his dedicated service over the past five years. Mike summarized the major repair work on the church and thanked all those who had donated to the repair work and to other special projects during the year. He said that there should only be minor repairs during the coming year. Mike answered questions from the parish about the work that had been done and what might be needed in the future.

Fr. Charles said that 2016 had been a good year, with an excellent worship program, great music, successful Christian formation and outstanding participation in our outreach program. We have had a seminarian, Layton Porter, with us since September and he has added greatly to our parish life.

Fr. Charles challenged the parish to look back to the founding of the parish almost sixty years ago. We need to remember why we are here, who are our neighbors and how do we serve them?

Fr. Charles closed the meeting with prayer and a dismissal at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Smith
Register

5 Marks of Love/Lenten Program

Sunday Mornings, 9am to 10am
Beginning March 5, through Sunday April 2



In this series we will be examining and reflecting on the ways in which God's Life and God's Mission express themselves in and through us. Each week we will look for signs of God's presence and activity in our lives, in our communities, and in the world about us. Sign up for a daily message and reflection question at www.5marksoflove.org. Come on Sunday mornings for holy conversation.

Schedule of Ministry ~ February 5 to March 5

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	March 5
	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	Presidents' Day	Last Epiphany	Lent 1
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Francesca Wallace	Mark Braden	Mary Bramley	Ben Justesen	Peggy Rudesheim
Welcoming Team	Jane Wosoogh	Lib Mueller	Peggy Rudesheim	Ellen Cleary	Mike Morgan
Ushers	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Wayne Johnson Barbara Riley	Mike Morgan Ellen Cleary	Peg Iber Ben Wosoogh
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	Layton Porter	Paul Vivian	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson	Vicky Vivian
Lector	Paul Vivian	Stan Dawson	Agnes Chapman	Janet Fallin	Layton Porter
Psalm	Layton Porter	Paul Vivian	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson	Vicky Vivian
Prayers	Francesca Wallace	Mark Braden	Mary Bramley	Ben Justesen	Peggy Rudesheim
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	No Sunday School	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Bill Iber	Mike Morgan	Peg Iber	Layton Porter	Amber Tussing
Lesson 1	Francesca Wallace	Sean Wallace	Marghe Bowker	Pat Rowell	Layton Porter
Psalm	Sean Wallace	McKayla Braden	Mary Blair	Hank Morgan	Bill Iber
Lesson 2	Nancy Sherick	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Bob Blair	Cheryl Nostrand	Nancy Sherick
Prayers	John Thompson	Mark Braden	Layton Porter	Mary Lowe	Suzanne Synnestvedt
Sacraments	Barbara Riley Peg Iber	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Laurie doCarmo Ellen Cleary	The Lowe Family	Anne Patrick Mike Morgan
Acolyte	Sara Thompson	Layton Porter	Zoe Wallace	Ben Justesen	Amber Tussing
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Iber Team

Ash Wednesday ~ March 1, 7:30pm

Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Ray Smith
Welcoming Team	Ray Smith
Ushers	Ray & Marge Smith
Chalice	Mary Bramley
Lectors	Mike Morgan, David Batcheller

Prayers	Peg Iber
Sacraments	Lib Mueller, Ben Wosoogh
Acolyte	TBD
Organist	Alan Moser
Counter	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Viani Team

February 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
29 January Epiphany 4 7pm Recital	30	31	1 February	2 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	3	4 9am to noon Vestry Retreat
5 February Epiphany 5 Scout Sunday	6	7	8	9 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1p Book Club	10	11 8am Brotherhood
12 February Epiphany 6 DOK Rededication	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19 February Epiphany 7	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 February Last Epiphany	27	28 Shrove Tuesday 6pm Pancake Supper & Talent Show	1 March Ash Wednesday Services Noon and 7:30pm	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 Online Calendar. If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please contact the Parish Office.



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Alexandria, VA 22309-3332
703-780-3081 www.stjamesmv.org



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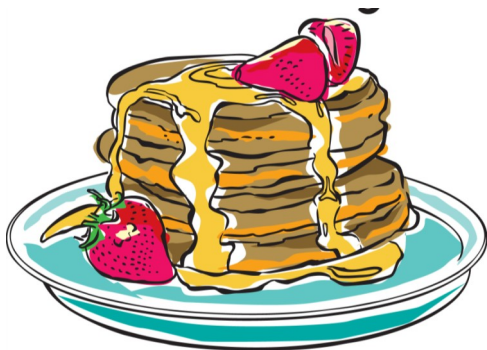
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

Pancake Supper & Talent Show

Tuesday, February 28

Plan to come at 6:00pm
for Pancake Supper and
Talent Show.



Ash Wednesday

March 1

12:00pm & 7:30pm

Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes