

St. James' Notes



June 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',

Pentecost has come, the season of Easter has passed, and we have entered into the long church season known as Ordinary Time. Not that there is anything Ordinary about our current times, but we are adjusting to what passes for normal at this moment.

Our family has been fortunate, and we have been spared so far from sickness and loss of income.

We've been able to enjoy family time together, and the quiet streets in our neighborhood lend themselves to long walks and meeting neighbors.

Many people are not so fortunate, and this time of quarantine and economic uncertainty has left many in difficult and stressful situations. We can do our part to remember and connect with those who are isolated and lonely. The Rev. Pedro Cuevas has been delivering Prepaid Grocery Cards to families in need in the Latino community. If you would like to support his ministry, please mail Grocery Cards or a donation to the St. James' office.

Ordinary Time is the six months between Pentecost and Advent, a time when the scripture lessons focus on Jesus' teachings and ministry in the world, and a time when we deepen in living the life that Jesus made possible for us. These times we live in pose unusual trials, yet our faithful presence is needed now more than ever. May the challenges of these days draw us closer to one another, and to God's will for us.

In Christ,



Sunday Worship

Visit St. James' website for videos and web links www.stjamesmv.org.

10:00am Online Morning Prayer with our neighboring Episcopal churches followed by Zoom fellowship hour.

11:15am Online Holy Eucharist at the Washington National Cathedral.



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

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

Spring Yard Sale, Postponed

Our May Yard Sale was postponed until authorities are confident that going out in crowds is safe again.

In the meantime, you should sort, clean, label, price your items so they are ready for the sale, maybe in late summer or early fall. There is price list on the Church website (www.StJamesMV.org) under Events, Yard Sale, or you can contact the church office to have one emailed to you.



Sorting through your closets, drawers, toy chests, attics, garages is a perfect activity while being stuck at home. Items we can sell: household, tools, toys, games, vintage, books, smaller furniture, sports, jewelry, crafts. No clothes, shoes.

Please - clean, test (attach a note regarding the condition), and price your items prior to bringing them. We'll arrange tables in the gallery.

Contact Marghe Bowker, Laurie do Carmo, Cheryl Viani if you have questions.

Marghe Bowker
(703) 799-1567
marghebowker@gmail.com

Cheryl Viani
(703) 360-8799
mandcviani@cox.net

Laurie do Carmo
(703) 780-8054
wdocarmol@verixon.net

THANKS!

From Andy, Fundraising

In this Easter season of resurrection, I'm starting to feel a neighborhood resurrection. The cold and rain of April is, mostly, giving way to nicer weather. Working from home means walking the dogs three times a day, bringing with it both the benefits of exercise and the joy of seeing a friend or neighbor outside and having a brief sense of what was once our normalcy. This weekend, especially, we have enjoyed the new normal of visiting friends from just a bit farther away - across the street, the driveway or the yard. In this time of sheltering in place, it's also given us time to appreciate the growth of all living things in our yard - flowers, trees, vegetables-to-be in pots along the patio. All of this springtime resurrection gives me hope that as we continue to do our part to keep ourselves and others safe, I see that the world goes on. God reminds us that there is so much good in our world - and it's even easier to see when we have to slow down to take a look.

Tim and I are especially grateful that with the warmer weather, we're able to dine outside on the patio - with dogs awaiting any morsel that happens to drop.

I wish you peace until we are able to say hello together again.

Andy Wormser



From Chris, Junior Warden

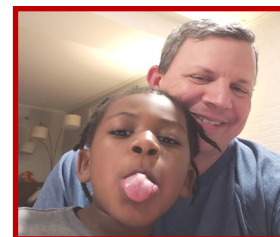
Welcome to June the warmest weather of the season so far, and the continuation of social distancing for the foreseeable future. I am entering my third month of working from home at a job that I started in early March, and the last 11 weeks all feel like one long week. Reading the news lately has consisted of minimizing the national press, and the rhetoric and concentrating on the good news in our neighborhood and the larger DC Metro area. Such as Jose Andreas assisting our local food banks in helping those who need food. Alice's Kids are helping kids and their families in our neighborhood by granting requests for clothing, helping them with resources to obtain their GED, and providing graduation gifts to families in need. We must always remember that even when things look their darkest, God is still with us.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Chris Marbaker



Chris and Sophie



A favorite activity



Kevin and Sophie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May

1 Kristi Thomas
11 Amy Smith
15 Barbara Tucker
23 Dean Sherick
23 Ruth Walsh
24 Brett Riley

June

1 Mark Braden
7 Laura Riley
12 Sarah Morgan
15 Antonia Rodriguez
20 Mike Viani
25 Jennifer Morgan Boyle



May 12, 2012 Andrew & Rosemarie Richard
May 16, 1981 Mike & Cheryl Nostrand

June 7, 2008 Doug & Amy Smith
June 12, 1999 Dean & Nancy Sherick
June 19, 1992 Bob & Mary Whitehouse

From Mckayla, Mission & Outreach

Dear Friends,

I am writing today joyful to be healthy, that my family and friends are healthy and that most are working. (Of course like Diana, my heart goes out to all the kids, many in my own extended family, who are missing their college and high school friends and experiences. What a bummer!!) In Northern Virginia, however, we are among the most fortunate for all our blessings and the beautiful spring God has given us.

I have so enjoyed being able to worship on Zoom under these difficult circumstances; seeing Charles and many of my St. James friends has been so nice and very comforting. And, as a result, I don't feel that we are so far apart physically. I miss friends who have not been able to join us on line, but calling folks from time to time has been reassuring. I also have enjoyed worshiping with other Episcopal Churches in our Diocese. It's interesting to hear other ministers, and to join in the break out room where we are meeting others. Joining services on line with the National Cathedral has also been a lovely experience. I am hoping to visit for a live service some day when we are able to go back to church. Maybe we could plan this in small groups.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to Rising Hope, our quarterly mission, and to Charles for always reminding us of their need. We are so fortunate to be able to help. So many people are in need right now. Thanks so much for what ever you are able to do.

Please enjoy your spring and your time together with friends, neighbors and the Lord in whatever ways you are able to experience God's love.

Mckayla Braden



Mark & McKayla in Safari in Kenya February 2020.



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

From time to time we have thought about Psalms - how we sing them, their significance, ways of looking at them. During this time apart from each other, there have been lots of cute parodies of arias and popular songs dealing with the Corona virus and politics. There have also been many serious online performances of sacred as well as sectarian compositions, both vocal and instrumental, which have brought us comfort. I was fortunate to receive one that, in my mind, combines many of these attributes. Here is an anthem composed by a friend that cites ten Psalm verses, and arranges them in a typical Psalm fashion, forming an alphabetic acrostic (look at the first letter of each verse, below). She set the text so that it could be performed by a virtual choir online, or still be meaningful when we get back together. This anthem, *In te Domine Speravi*, is composed by Sarah MacDonald, Fellow and Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, England. A link to a recording of the anthem by her choir from the Selwyn College Chapel is below the anthem text.



Text	Psalm
Q uicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake: and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.	9: 10
U nto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul: my God I have put my trust in thee.	25: 1
A rise, O Lord God, and lift up thine hand: forget not the poor.	10: 13
R emember me, O Lord: according to the favour that thou bearest unto thy people.	106: 4
A nd I, truly, am set in the plague: and my heaviness is ever in my sight.	38: 17
N ow for the comfortless troubles' sake of the needy: and because of the deep sighing of the poor.	12: 5
T urn thee again, O Lord, at the last: and be gracious unto thy servants.	91: 13
I n the time of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou hearest me.	83: 7
N evertheless, thou heardest the voice of my prayer: when I cried unto thee.	31: 25
E very day will I give thanks unto thee: and praise thy Name for ever and ever.	145: 2

A recording of this may be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9kwhv4f>

I hope you enjoy hearing this. See you soon!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Alan Moser

Stay Connected

Want a Directory?

We have printed directories. They are updated monthly and you can email Jenny and she will send you a pdf or a printed version. Just ask.

Office@stjamesmv.org



ZOOM on Wednesdays

Join us for online Noonday Prayer every Wednesday led by Father Charles. Look for a link on the church website www.stjamesmv.org. If you have trouble figuring out Zoom, call the church office (703) 780-3081 and Jenny can walk you through it.

We Now Have Online Giving!

We welcome your on-line donations through a button on the church's web home page: www.stjamesmv.org. You may use this for your regular pledges or for making one-time gifts. You may also mail your pledges to the church office (5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria VA 22309). Thank you all for all the ways in which you support St. James'.



Book Club

The book club was able to have an outdoor final meeting in May and has picked the summer read. It's the first book written by Mary Higgins Clark called Mount Vernon: A Love Story. It's a short read and so appropriate of course. There is a great interview with the author and journalist Roger Mudd on C-Span.org. Search for Roger Mudd with Mary Higgins Clark. The Book Club will resume in-person again in September. Mark the second Thursday of each month at 1:00pm in the church library. You are always invited. Please contact Marghe Bowker or Lib Muller if you have questions.



From Mary, Administration & Finance

I've been on social media a lot more lately, I'm sure like most of you. I have been catching up on news and what is happening in my friends' and families' lives. I have friends in the Midwest, California, Alaska, New York, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hong Kong and as far as Japan. It has been a way to keep in touch and now we all have the time to share our stories that maybe we didn't have a chance to in January or February.

The St. James' Facebook page and website are no different. They have become hubs for the life of church as we now know it. We even have a YouTube page! Please like, share, and comment on what you see. Show your friends that the life of the church is still healthy.

If you have photos you want to share, please do. You can send them to me maryfbramley@gmail.com or to the St. James' office at office@stjamesmv.org. Thanks!

Mary Bramley



From Diana, Senior Warden

In a year without Coronavirus, the month of May is typically a blur. With end of the year concerts for choir and strings, awards ceremonies, gymnastics and dance recitals, the start of swim and dive teams, countless family birthday celebrations, and a busy time at work, the days in May seem to blend together in an endless frenzy until all of a sudden it's June.

And although I am a little disheartened that my high school senior won't get to experience some of these events for the last time, so many positive things have come out of this pandemic.

I am enjoying spending time with my kids; especially since my senior has enlisted in the Army and will be heading to boot camp as soon as restrictions are lifted.

I love that we can have breakfast, lunch and dinner together (well.. mainly "brunch" and dinner... I do have two teenagers in the house after all). I'm enjoying our after-dinner walks the occasional mid-morning walk between work meetings and school classes. I am enjoying the time we are spending finding old photos, old books, old baby clothes and old schoolwork while cleaning out every single closet. I am enjoying everyone pitching in to plant a vegetable garden, tending to it and the excitement that arises with the first sprouts of food. I am thankful that my father, who has not been able to physically attend church in quite some time, can worship every Sunday morning virtually.

I realize that these last several weeks have created lives that we hadn't planned on- and for some of us maybe not even wanted. But I do believe that God has a greater plan in store. If he takes care of the smallest sparrows, then surely he will watch after all of us. Take heart that this too will pass, and we will all come out of this stronger in the way that God designed.

Diana Courtney



From Mary Jane, Parish Family

Wow! What a joy and blessing it is during this different spring to be part of the wonderful parish family that is St. James! While we all look forward to being physically together to worship and celebrate again, this family has done an excellent job of staying connected and informed these past two months. I hope everyone is well and has been able to join some of the services on Zoom or watched the beautiful services from the National Cathedral on YouTube. What a blessing to have these systems to stay connected. Please join in for Virtual Coffee hour. Mary Bramley often brings virtual donuts! So nice, and no calories!

Speaking of coffee hour, we do realize that we will need to share this fellowship a bit differently when we first begin meeting in person. Rest assured that we will follow all guidelines that are published by the diocese and the state for everyone's safety.

That being said, we've missed three Birthday Sundays! Happy Birthday to all those folks whose birthdays we missed in March, April, and May! Best wishes and virtual cake to all!

Mary Jane Van den Berg





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MOUNT VERNON, VA

Apart but Together in Spirit

There are signs of progress. By the time you read this newsletter, Virginia will be in Phase 1 of lifting coronavirus restrictions. This means that businesses and restaurants are able to open, subject to operating at a maximum of 50% capacity, maintaining strong social distancing precautions, and requiring face masks.

We do not have plans to open St. James' during Phase 1. We are not yet permitted to offer communion; we are discouraged from singing; and the logistics of maintaining social distance (and clean bathrooms) are daunting. It is still not safe for many St. James' members to be out in a church gathering.

We are looking ahead to the next phase of regathering, even though we don't know when that will be. It will still require our precautions, but we will have greater confidence in being able to be together safely. We also intend to have on-line worship available for those who are still unable to join us in person.

As we see in so many places, people are so eager to get out of their homes and resume their "normal" lives. It is hard to take things slowly, but this is the best path we have of responsibly caring for one another and our neighbors.

Please continue to join us for Wednesday Noonday Prayer (at noon) and for Sunday Morning Prayer (at 10am). Links to these services can always be found on the [St. James' website](http://www.StJamesMV.org).
www.StJamesMV.org

