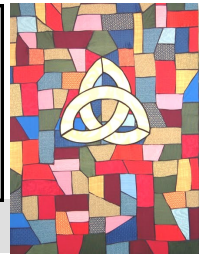




St. James' Notes



March 2019



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',

When I was a child, my parents took me to church every week. I still remember those Sunday services: fidgeting on the hard pew, drawing on the service bulletin, peering over my father's arm to see the hymnal. But I also remember a couple of special occasions that really grabbed my attention, and that I still vividly recall as moments of grace and conversion.



When we started planning our first Casual Church service, I didn't know what it would look like or how it would work. But I did know what I hoped for: a service that would respect our traditional liturgy, with scripture, prayer, and communion; a service that would be different, fresh and engaging. I wanted a service that would be welcoming to visitors and children, easy to follow and to participate in. And above all, I hoped for a service that we might all be glad to invite others to come try.

I think that our February Casual Church service was a success, on all these counts. Our worship was filled with spirit, and it was a joy to see so many guests and visitors. We will continue to offer Casual Church on the first Sunday of each month. Casual Church will continue to be a work-in-progress, changing and evolving. It may not always look like what you think church should be. But I hope that I will hear more children tell me, "That was the best church service ever!"

In Christ,
Charles+

Casual Church

"Let the children come..."

Sunday, March 3, at 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. Invite your friends and neighbors to Casual Church on the first Sunday of each month.

Come and see!

St. James'
Episcopal Church
at Mount Vernon

The Diocese of Virginia

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

Rt. Rev. Robert Wilkes Ihloff
Bishop Associate

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Ben Justesen (2020)
Sr. Warden

Diana Courtney (2021)
Jr. Warden
Christian Education

McKayla Braden (2022)
Evangelism & Publicity

James Eustis (2020)
Plant & Property

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Administration & Finance

Rosemarie Richard (2020)
Outreach

Mary Jane Vandenberg (2021)
Parish Family

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Sunday Suppers in Lent

THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

During our five-week Lent program, we will explore a set of practices for a Jesus-centered life, The Way of Love. Join us on Sunday evenings, March 10 through April 7, for a simple supper of soup and salad, followed by a short program, and concluding with Compline. Supper will be served at 5pm, and the program will begin at 5:30. We will aim to finish each evening by 6:30pm. Childcare will be available if requested in advance

An Invitation from Ghana Resurrection Methodist Church Ghana Day March 10

Our friends from Ghana Resurrection Methodist Church have invited St. James' to join them in their Ghana Day Celebration, after the 10:15am worship. Be prepared for a wonderful and delicious celebration.



St. James' Used Book Sales

St. James' sent \$178, from the sales of your book donations, to the Wright to Read program at the Campagna Center in Alexandria, VA. This program matches students, identified as at least 1 year, many 2-3 years behind, in grade school literacy. Nearly all are low income; many are English Language Learners, with additional special needs. The program trains volunteers to work 1:1, for at least a year with a student; many tutor into Middle and High School with the same student. This is a year-round, out-of-school program to help struggling students without loss of class time. Here is a letter of thanks from the program director:



Dear Members of St. James' Episcopal Church Book Club,

Your donation from your church book sale will help Wright to Read purchase books that our students will read with their tutor/mentors and then take home to build their own libraries. We purchase books that are of high interest to our students, with diverse characters that our young readers can relate to, because we not only want their literacy to improve, we want to inspire their love of books. For so many families, purchasing books is not in their budgets. Your generosity gives our students books they will love to take home and read many times again. Thank you so much for your gift to Wright to Read! This is a blessing to us!

Luisa Reyes, Program Director, Wright to Read,

Parishioners, keep donating and buying. Our help makes a difference.

From the Senior Warden

We are off to another great year at St. James', with Vestry members eager to take on new challenges in new roles. And just as spring approaches, this year's later-than-usual Easter means our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday will fall in the first week of March in 2019—just two weeks before the start of spring.



So you all still have plenty of time to dig in your closet, dust off those musical instruments, magic acts, and vaudeville jokes, and start practicing for your performances at the annual St. James' Talent Show! Our past talent shows in Braxton Hall have always been fun to watch—and even more fun to take part in—so I hope you will all make an extra special effort this year to turn out in force, both in the audience and on stage!

It is just one of many exciting family events at St. James' throughout the year, with good food, good fellowship, and good entertainment! Bring everyone you know—and show them the way to have a good time with a wonderful church family!

Thanks be to God!

Ben Justesen

Mission and Outreach

First Quarter Mission 2019

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.

Red Wagon for Rising Hope Mission

Thank you to all who continuously give food to the Red Wagon which has a direct impact on our local community. Every week when you are shopping for groceries, think of the hungry and pick up some canned or non-perishable foods to bring to church as a part of your Sunday offering. You can put your food offering in the Red Wagon in the back of the church, and it will be blessed along with all of our offerings during our Sunday service. The food is delivered each week to Rising Hope Mission Church to support their ministry to the homeless and hungry along the Route I corridor.



Interested in getting involved in the local and global outreach programs at St. James'? Please let Chris Marbaker know (chris.marbaker@gmail.com).

Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE - Shrine Mont

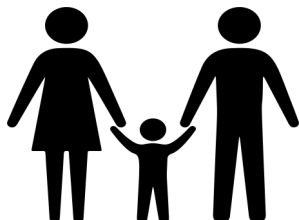
Our annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont in the beautiful, majestic mountains of Virginia will be the weekend of July 5-7. Our weekend away is also the Shrine Mont Celebration Weekend, there will be extra fun activities for all to enjoy. More information to follow.



St. James' Next

Saturday, April 13, we volunteer at the Capital Area Food Bank in Lorton. For ages 12 and up! If you are interested, please let Mary Bramley know and she will get you signed up.

St. James' Next is a group of newcomers and young families that meet monthly for activities. If you have any questions please contact Mary Bramley at marybramley@gmail.com or (703) 629-9158.



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

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.



Theology on Tap

Tuesday, March 19, at 6pm at Mount Vernon Inn, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.



Theology on Tap is a comfortable space for us to talk about faith, religion, modern Christianity, and ask questions while enjoying a beverage and maybe dinner. We meet from 6pm-8pm, once a month, and all are welcome! If you have any questions please contact Mary Bramley at marybramley@gmail.com or (703) 629-9158.

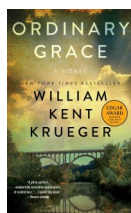
Sunday School and Adult Forum Every Sunday

At 9:00am we have Adult Forum with coffee and conversation in Braxton Hall. At 10:00am we offer Sunday School for children Kindergarten through 5th grade. The children join their parents in church for the passing of the peace and communion. On the first Sunday of each month we offer Casual Church. Casual Church is designed to be especially engaging for children of all ages. After the worship service there are activities for children and snacks for all in Braxton Hall.



Book Club

St. James' Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 14, and we will discuss *Billy Gashade; An American Epic* by Loren D. Estleman. The following month we meet April 11 and are reading *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Questions? Call Lib Mueller at (703) 360-0561. Everyone is welcome. Join us!



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

I have been working on planning hymns and anthems for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. That process has taken me back into some textbooks as well as the lectionary, the hymnal, and the *Book of Common Prayer*. The combination of all those sources makes me realize that what I'm doing is preparing my worship garden for the season, and to observe that the days are growing longer. Why do I mention that observation? It is because we are about to enter Lent. My excursions into Wikipedia tell me that the English word Lent stems from the Old English word for "spring season," and that there may also be an etymological connection to the word for "long" - perhaps an allusion to the lengthening days of this season as we approach Easter.



On Ash Wednesday, we will hear the word of the invitation "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." That sounds somber and painful to me - not an invitation that I jump up with joy to receive. But wait, there's more to the invitation. Digging into the various texts also reminds me that Lent was traditionally a season of preparation for new Christians about to be baptized. The scripture lessons for the Sundays in (not of) Lent help instruct us in how to follow the path of a healthy Christian life. Those lessons are upbeat and joyous. In fact, the two prefaces of Lent will remind us of this at each celebration of the Eucharist during this season:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Aha - Lent is not just gloom and doom, but a time of reflection, study, prayer, discipline, AND joy. I need to get on with tilling my liturgical soil and hope that my crops will help all of us live the liturgy daily - not just hear it on Sunday morning.

To that end, the choir will begin that penitential yet joyful journey of Christian instruction with the anthem *Treasures in Heaven*, echoing the teaching of Ash Wednesday's Gospel lesson from Matthew:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

May your Lent be full of new-found treasures.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

1	Andrew Richard	13	McKayla Braden
2	Suzanne King	15	Anne Stinson
2	Douglas Smith	21	Anne Brenton
3	Mike Nostrand	23	Amber Tyler
6	Barbara Riley	24	Sara Thompson
8	Penny Norman	27	Zachary Thompson



Happy Anniversary

March 6, 1965
Ray & Marge Smith
March 14, 1952
George & Mary Ann Holthaus
March 17, 1961
Eliot & Barbara Tucker

Schedule of Ministry ~ March 3 to April 7


	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31	April 7
	Last Epiphany	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Mary Jane Vandenberg	McKayla Braden	Diana Courtney	James Eustis	Ben Justesen	Chris Marbaker
Ushers	Ray Smith	Mark Braden	Wayne Johnson	Bob Blair	Lewis Clark	Peg Iber
	Marge Smith	McKayla Braden	Ray Smith	Mary Blair	Susan Clark	Chad Duffield
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller	Paul Vivian	Stan Dawson	Vicky Vivian	David Batcheller
Lesson 1	Janet Fallin	Agnes Chapman	Tim Myers	Janet Fallin	David Batcheller	Andy Wormser
Lesson 2	Paul Vivian	Stan Dawson	Andy Wormser	Vicky Vivian	Agnes Chapman	Tim Myers
Prayers	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller	Paul Vivian	Stan Dawson	Vicky Vivian	David Batcheller
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Heidi Brock	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	Diana Courtney	Heidi Brock	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Mike Morgan	Amber Tussing	Mary Blair	Marghe Bowker	Bob Fitz	Mary Bramley
Lesson 1	Casual Church	Bob Blair	Mark Braden	Ali Duffield	Mike Morgan	Casual Church
Psalm		Marghe Bowker	McKayla Braden	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Mary Blair	
Lesson 2		James Eustis	Bill Iber	Cheryl Nostrand	Bob Blair	
Prayers		Bob Fitz	Ryan Duffield	Peg Iber	Ben Justesen	
Sacraments	Anne Patrick	Duffield Family	Kevin Diana	Heidi Brock	Ellen Cleary	Nancy Sherick
	Laurie do Carmo		Chris Marbaker	Lib Mueller	Diana Courtney	Peg Iber
Acolyte	Elizabeth Lowman	Amber Tussing	Ryan Duffield	Aly Duffield	Ben Justesen	Amber Tussing
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team

March 2019

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

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

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PAID

PERMIT NO. 14
MOUNT VERNON, VA



Pancake Supper & Talent Show

Tuesday, March 5

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

Bring your appetite and your
talents—enjoy!



**Ash Wednesday
March 6**

12:00pm & 6pm

Holy Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes