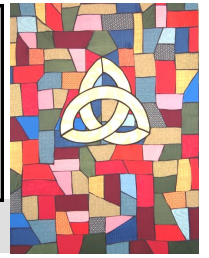




# St. James' Notes



March 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',

Stories are essential to being human. Our stories tell us where we come from, what we are like, and why we do the things that we do. Our lives tell the story of who we are.

Communities tell stories, too. Stories of how they were founded, made choices, dealt with hardship, and gathered around a common purpose. These stories are how a community creates an identity that can be shared with others.

For stories to retain their power, they need to be passed on, shared, retold. Each generation needs to hear these stories anew in ways that are alive and meaningful.

As St. James' Episcopal Church nears its 60th year, it is right that we should remember and share the stories of our church that have formed us, and that have the power to continue to inspire us. What was the story that motivated a small group to found this church in 1958? What was the story that young church told that attracted so many to commit themselves as members?

I invite all of you to write down and share with me the stories of St. James' that are important to you, the stories that you think explain where we came from, why we are here, and what we are about. Send these stories to me, and we will share them next month in this newsletter.

The story of Jesus is at the center of our Christian life. And because of that, the story of our life is how the story of Jesus continues.

In Christ,  
Charles+



## Ash Wednesday



**March 1**  
**12:00pm & 7:30pm**  
Holy Eucharist with  
Imposition of Ashes

# 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  
Seminarian

### Staff

Jenny Kennedy  
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser  
Director of Music

### Vestry

Ray Smith  
Senior Warden  
Admin & Finance

Mary Bramley  
Junior Warden

Mark Braden  
Christian Education

Ben Justesen  
Plant & Property

Rosemarie Richard  
Mission & Outreach

Peggy Rudesheim  
Growth, Evangelism & Publicity

Francesca Wallace  
Communications

Mike Morgan  
Parish Family  
Treasurer

Marge Smith  
Register

### Trustees

Peg Iber  
Lib Mueller  
Ray Smith

Dear St. James' friends,

Each of us will soon receive a very special, personal invitation:

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, 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.* [BCP 265]



This is the invitation at the beginning of the Ash Wednesday liturgy, as we move into the forty days of Lent. It is a time of preparation for the Easter celebration to come. It often seems to me to be seen only as a time of silence, harsh introspection and admonishment. I suggest that it is much more than that.

It was interesting to me to note that Psalm 103 used in the Ash Wednesday liturgy is also the psalm appointed for the March 3 Feast of Charles and John Wesley. In Psalm 103, we hear words of comfort and hope:

- 3 He forgives all your sins \* and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \* and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \* slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \* so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

And we are reminded, as the Wesleys helped guide us in song, to:

- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, \* you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \* bless the Lord, O my soul.

Similarly, the offertory anthems on the Sundays in Lent will speak to both our sin and the hopefulness of Christ's healing. I invite you to listen for these ideas in the anthems.

- |          |                                   |          |                                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| March 1  | <i>Turn thy face from my sins</i> | March 19 | <i>My Spirit Longs for Thee</i> |
| March 5  | <i>Since by man came death</i>    | March 26 | <i>Anthem of Healing</i>        |
| March 12 | <i>God so loved the world</i>     |          |                                 |

May you be mindful of the hope and healing that is promised. I wish you a confident, solemn, hopeful Lent.

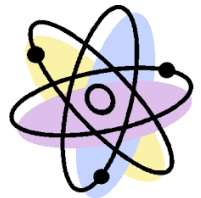
**Soli Deo gloria, Alan**

# Word of Month

## The Word of the Month for Growth & Evangelism is Energy!

Have you ever thought of how you read, pray or sing in church?

As Episcopalians, we follow a set Liturgy each week, sometimes for weeks at a time. While the Liturgy is what makes our service beautiful, it also can become rote to us. I know that many of us have been repeating these prayers since we were old enough to speak!



A couple of weeks ago, I tried changing the way I spoke The Nicene Creed. I used more inflection in the way I spoke the sentences. It was amazing how much more I paid attention to the words of the Creed.

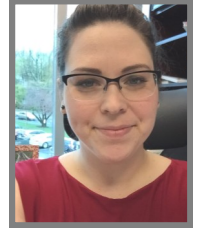
Let's try an experiment this Sunday. Try changing the way you read or recite prayers and the way in which you sing hymns in the service by adding more Energy to your voice.

Using more Energy in our voices is bound to create an environment in which the Spirit can't help but be felt among us! Newcomers will feel our Energy and want to come back and be a part of our vibrant congregation!

# A Note from Your Junior Warden

Dear St. James’,

I am thrilled to be your new Junior Warden. I knew that when I started re-attending St. James’ two years ago – I wanted to be an involved member. Yes, I am a “child of the church.” After college, I came back to the area and back to St. James’. I was welcomed and encouraged to sing with the Choir, join the Vestry and facilitate Mission and Outreach programs, help with Facebook postings, attend a Diocesan level Stewardship Worship meeting, participate in our Seminarian Lay Committee and I even learned to make homemade jam (my favorite!)



We are blessed that there are many opportunities at St. James’ to get involved. Each year, we seek new members for the Vestry. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the church, and learn about how the church runs. If you are interested in Vestry, but maybe not joining a committee, each month, the minutes of the Vestry meeting are posted on the last bulletin board on the left, before entering Braxton Hall. I encourage you to stop by and read them.

Speaking of Braxton Hall, another fantastic way to get involved is by signing up to bring snacks and goodies for Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour is a great way to meet and greet with your fellow parishioners! Speaking of meet and greet, if you like to welcome new people, maybe the Welcoming Committee is for you! You can welcome new members and share your story of why you love St. James’. Speaking of sharing stories, you can talk to Father Charles about becoming a Lay Reader and participate in worship service. It will be great to have some new voices! Speaking of new voices, have I talked to you about joining the Choir?

The list goes on and on about different ways you can participate in the church. Whether it is coming to events, helping out during the service, bringing cookies, buying water barrels for needy communities in Kenya (see page 5) or helping to fill the Red Wagon each week with food for those in need in our area, everyone has something to offer! I look forward to seeing what you do next.

Sincerely,

Mary Bramley

## April 29 Spring Yard Sale

### Collection begins NOW!

Time to bring in Yard Sale items. St. James’ Yard Sale is on Saturday, April 29.

According to AARP here’s what’s hot at yard sales:

Any & all jewelry.

Unused (unwanted) gifts, in original packaging.

Old vinyl records.

Tools. *Do you really need multiples? Men fight over the tools at sales.*

Vintage “Americana” items.

*Hey, these are our things. WE are vintage and valuable!*

Books. Not text books.

Wooden furniture.

Retro toys & dolls, especially collectibles.

Kid & baby clothing. NO adult stuff, except we will take denim.

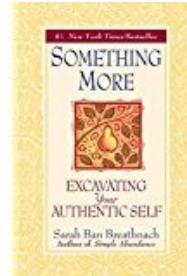
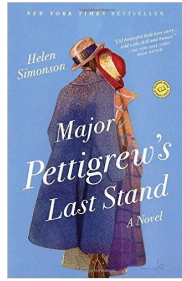
Antiques. *If you help us ID it, and add a story (provenance) it will add value for the buyer & our treasury.*



Questions? Contact Marghe Bowker, Mary Bramley, Laurie doCarmo, or Cheryl Viani.

## 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, March 9, 1pm and we will discuss **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson. In April we meet on Thursday, April 13, 1pm and will discuss **Something More: Excavating your Authentic Self** by Sarah Ban Breathnach.



## Prayers

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.

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Esther, Muriel, Muriel Sue, Cindy, Sandy, Lauren, Linda, Todd, Jamie, Omari, Gillian, Betty, Elizabeth, Christopher, Eddie, Pat, Barbara, Jeff, John, Robin, Mairi, Paula, Bobbie, Pam, Glenda, Winsome, Jacob, Rita

## Happy Birthday

- 1 Andrew Richard
- 2 Suzanne King
- 2 Douglas Smith
- 3 Mike Nostrand
- 6 Barbara Riley
- 8 Penny Norman
- 13 McKayla Braden
- 23 Amber Tyler
- 24 Sara Thompson



### 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](mailto:office@stjamesmv.org) or call (703) 780-3081. Thanks!



## Happy Anniversary



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

## An Invitation from Ghana Resurrection Methodist Church Ghana Day March 12

Traditions certainly enrich people and elicit reflections to enable us stay on course in life.

Ghana's Independence Day celebration this year is special, 60 years of statehood. The Diamond Jubilee will definitely call us to reflect on the peaceful transition of government, and the hopes Ghanaians have for the years ahead.

As we celebrate this milestone, it is our pleasure to invite our sisters and brothers at St. James' Episcopal Church to join us for a time of fellowship so that we break bread together as we've done in the past on Sunday, March 12, 2017, immediately following St. James' 10:15am service.

We hope this festive occasion will bring us together once again as we thank God and celebrate the gift of each of us as God's wonderful creation.





# Mission and Outreach

## Water for Kenya – Mission of the First Quarter

Thank you for supporting Episcopal Relief and Development with their global efforts this first quarter of 2017. We have just learned of an urgent need for water in Kenya and hope everyone can help. You may be aware that we have helped this community in Kenya in the past build a much needed classroom – now they need our help with water barrels. Due to lack of rain, the summer growing season has been poor and the wells, local water ponds and even mud holes have gone dry. People, stock, and wildlife have no water and no food. This sets up not only a crisis of famine, but a competition between villages and wildlife for water and food. Since the primary industry for Kenya is tourism; having cattle invade the national parks, elephants destroying villages, and wildlife dying of thirst and barren grasslands, is a highly complex crisis. President Kenyatta has declared a national emergency.



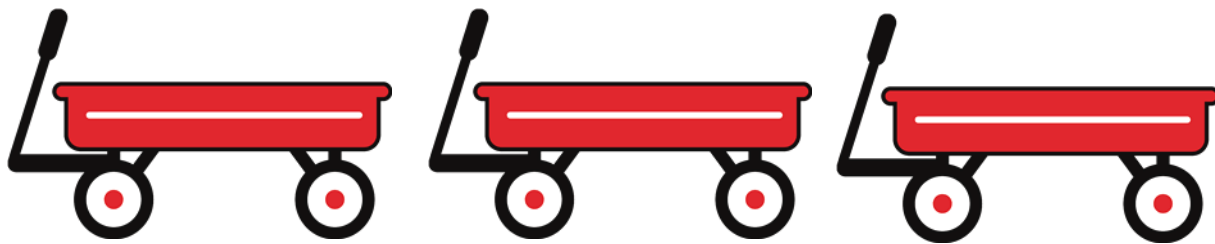
Based on this emergency, our Mission of the First Quarter has changed to provide direct support to the Kenya community of 7 villages St. James' has supported in the past. Your assistance is needed now. With a \$100 donation we can provide a water barrel to support a family. The water barrels will catch the March-April rains that we pray will arrive. This is much more cost effective than the villagers buying smaller "Gerry" cans of water. Our own Marghe Bowker has purchased water barrels through proceeds from her basket & jewelry sales.



You may purchase a whole barrel or a portion of a barrel. Make your checks payable to St. James'. Put Kenya in the memo line and we will combine our monies to buy as many barrels as possible. We are collecting for Kenya through the end of March – but your contribution now is urgently needed.



Please ask Rosemarie Richard (443) 686-1145  
rosemarie.s.richard@gmail.com if you have any questions.



## 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

# Schedule of Ministry ~ March 5 to April 2

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	April 2
	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
<b>Vestry Person</b>	Mike Morgan	Rosemarie Richard	Peggy Rudesheim	Ray Smith	Francesca Wallace
<b>Welcoming Team</b>	Mike Morgan	Ellen Cleary	Laurie doCarmo	Jane Wosoogh	Peggy Rudesheim
<b>Ushers</b>	Peg Iber Ben Wosoogh	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Wayne Johnson Ellen Cleary	Mike Morgan Barbara Riley	Wallace Family
	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
<b>Chalice</b>	Vicky Vivian	Nebiyou Tesfaye	Stan Dawson	Layton Porter	Paul Vivian
<b>Lector</b>	Layton Porter	David Batcheller	Vicky Vivian	Nebiyou Tesfaye	Agnes Chapman
<b>Psalm</b>	Vicky Vivian	Nebiyou Tesfaye	Stan Dawson	Layton Porter	Paul Vivian
<b>Prayers</b>	Mike Morgan	Rosemarie Richard	Peggy Rudesheim	Ray Smith	Francesca Wallace
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	Francesca Wallace Mary Lowe	Andrew Richard Rosemarie Richard
	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>10:15am</b>
<b>Chalice</b>	Amber Tussing	Layton Porter	Mary Blair	Marghe Bowker	Pat Rowell
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Layton Porter	James Eustis	Bob Fitz	Mark Braden	John Thompson
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Nancy Sherick	Peg Iber	Marghe Bowker	McKayla Braden	Francesca Wallace
<b>Prayers</b>	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Ben Justesen	Layton Porter	Layton Porter	Mary Lowe
<b>Sacraments</b>	Anne Patrick Mike Morgan	Laurie doCarmo Barbara Riley	Lowe Family	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Mark Braden McKayla Braden
<b>Acolyte</b>	Amber Tussing	Pat Rowell	Layton Porter	Ben Wosoogh	Elizabeth Lowman
<b>Organist</b>	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
<b>Counter</b>	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team

## Ash Wednesday ~ March 1, 7:30pm

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


<b>Prayers</b>	Peg Iber
<b>Sacraments</b>	Lib Mueller, Ben Wosoogh
<b>Acolyte</b>	Payton Porter
<b>Organist</b>	Alan Moser
<b>Counter</b>	Marge Smith
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Viani Team

# March 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
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
5 March Lent 1	6	7	8	9 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry  1p Book Club	10	11 8am Brotherhood
12 March Lent 2 Ghana Day Celebration & Fellowship 	13	14 Vestry	15	16	17	18
19 March Lent 3	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 March Lent 4	27	28	29	30	31	1 April

Please always check the online calendar for the most up-to-date event information. Go to our website at [www.stjamesmv.org](http://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](http://www.stjamesmv.org)



**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 14  
MOUNT VERNON, VA**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **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](http://www.5marksoflove.org). Come on Sunday mornings for holy conversation.