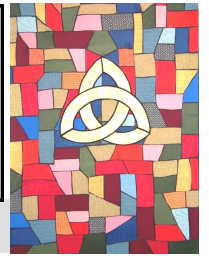




St. James' Notes



November 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',

I'm writing this message on November 3, Election Day. And when you read this message, you will know something that I don't—the election results!

As a Christian, I've always been moved by the vision of the Kingdom of God. Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God has come near. Through baptism, we become citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are united through faith in this body that follows Jesus and is led by God.

The Kingdom of God is a vision of a world of justice and compassion, of care for the vulnerable, of dignity for all people. It is a vision that points towards reconciliation and healing, of bringing sinners back into the fold, of helping the lost and the despairing find hope and comfort. It is a vision that embraces all people, regardless of nation, race, gender, or any of the things that get used to create divisions.

How does the Kingdom of God intersect with the world that we live in? For me it is the vision that guides my aspirations for our country. How do we, as citizens of the United States, pursue this vision of justice and compassion? Our choices can inspire hope for all people, that the Kingdom of God is more than a vision, but in fact our future.

In Christ,
Charles+



Look for Zoom links and videos on the church website

www.stjamesmv.org

Sunday Worship

10:00am Online Morning Prayer with St. James' followed by Zoom fellowship time.

Wednesdays

11:30am Join us online for 30 minutes of Bible-centered study and conversation.

Noon Online Noonday Prayer and fellowship.



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 Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

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Sr. Warden, Christian Education
dianacourtney3@gmail.com

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Jr. Warden, Plant & Property
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Mckayla Braden (2022)
Mission & Outreach
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James Eustis (2023)
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Mike Morgan
Treasurer
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Susan Clark
Register
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Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Prayers

Happy Birthday

- 1 Bill Iber
- 3 Mary Whitehouse
- 4 Mike Morgan
- 10 Gavin Collins
- 10 Elizabeth Lowman
- 21 Kathryn Prigmore
- 24 Chris Iber



Happy Anniversary

November 15, 1975
Rick & Andy De La Cour

November 20, 1965
Michael & Cheryl Viani

November 22, 2003
Charles & Heidi Brock



Prayers are offered when we worship. Please let the church office know if you would like to add a name to the list.

We pray for strength, guidance and healing for: Esther, Muriel Sue, Paula, and Lynn & David.

Grocery Cards

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. If you send a check, please write "grocery cards" in the memo line. Thanks.



Support Rising Hope Church



Please remember the homeless and hungry in our community and consider making an online donation to Rising Hope Mission Church, who supports so many in our community. <https://risinghopemc.org>

What a Difference a Day Makes!

On Saturday, October 17, we got together for a fall cleanup day of the St. James' grounds. We had a good crew from St. James' and were joined by about two-dozen of our fellow parishioners from the Ghanaian Methodist Church. God provided perfect weather and an abundance of hands, rakes, shovels and saws. We each provided our own gloves and masks along with socially-distant working areas. In all, we cut down about 10 trees, trimmed back others, weeded gardens and raked up leaves. We filled a huge truck with all our work! It's a continuation of the efforts we've been making this year to keep the St. James' grounds looking well cared for. If you haven't been by lately, take a drive down Old Mill Road and swing through the parking lot to see what we've accomplished. Oh, and you can now see St. James' clearly from both roads that run on either side of our church. If you missed the fellowship this fall, fear not. We're planning another clean-up day for the spring!



Online Yard Sale

St. James' Yard Sale 2020 has already made \$600 with virtual sales on eBay. Until we can be together again, we will continue raising money with sales on eBay and Craigslist. Items that sell best are anything collectible, valuable, vintage, good jewelry, art, and folkcraft. Smaller, non-breakable items are easiest to sell and mail. Sterling silver is valuable now. Also some books, toys, and desk items will sell. Email or text Marghe with photos and a short description, Marghe will answer you. You could also look up your item yourself on eBay. Let's meet our goal of \$2020 in 2020!



We still hope to hold an in-person Yard Sale in April 2021, so continue to sort, clean, label, and price your items. The suggested price list is on the Church website (www.StJamesMV.org) under Events, Yard Sale, or you can contact the church office to have one emailed or sent to you. Sorting closets, drawers, toy chests, attics, or garages is a perfect activity while you are stuck at home. Items we can sell include: household, tools, toys, games, vintage, books, smaller furniture, sports, jewelry, and crafts. No clothes or shoes. Please - clean, test (attach a note regarding the condition), and price your items. Store them in your house until next spring.

Contact Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 marghebowker@gmail.com or the church office if you have questions.

Marghe Bowker

From Mckayla, Mission & Outreach

Dear friends of St. James',

Mark and I have been traveling the past several weeks. The trip has been productive, working on our son Marshall's April wedding plans and visiting with friends and family. We have been in Folly Beach, South Carolina; Ormond Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Sarasota, Florida. We have been so fortunate to be with our family at each stop. I have to count my blessings every day that we have these opportunities to travel and stay safe, It is a blessing to have good friends and family that will put up with us during these difficult times! Being together lightens the load on our spirit as does zooming- from wherever we are- into church almost every week!

Except for the masks and the closed store fronts, you would not know there is a pandemic. Reading the newspaper and seeing the local news on television, however, reveals a different story of the many folks who are suffering. The need is great in our community, in the country and the wider world. My thought is that maybe through the pandemic, Mother Nature maybe trying to get us to understand how important it is to take care of the earth and all of God's gifts, and to take care of our neighbors and the animal kingdom. I believe God works in such mysterious ways sometimes, but I pray we are getting His message and will have better times soon.

Not that you need to be reminded, but as your vestry person for Mission and Outreach, please consider giving to those in need during the coming months of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Rising Hope is always on our list as our closest neighbor and friend who cares for the less fortunate. United Communities (formerly UCM) is our Mission of the Quarter, especially giving for the children at Christmas time (via our "Angel Tree"). This year UC 's Holiday Gift Program will be a collection of \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards. We are asking you to drop off or send in your gift cards by November 25 to the church and we will send them over all together. Thanks in advance.



Virtual Angel Tree Supporting United Community's Holiday Gift Program

This Holiday Season share your generosity with local families in need and donate a \$25 Target or Walmart gift card.

Please send or bring your gift card to St. James' Church office by November 25 and we will send in the cards all together. UC will work with our neighbors who are most in need and plan to distribute up to 700 gift cards to local children.

Thank You!



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

The sermon at the St. James's Feast Day online service of Morning Prayer came just at the right time for me. Thank you, Mary Bramley, for not only accepting the challenge to deliver the sermon, but for the excellent message you shared with us.



One of the things Mary shared was what she called "a closely guarded choir secret." Well, I feel like I must respond. First, a disclaimer – the choir is always open to any and all of you who want to be part of the musical leadership of our worship ("no secrets are hid" to borrow a phrase we hear in the collect for purity in the Eucharist service). Please consider joining us when we do have the opportunity to sing together again. Second, as to that choir secret – she let slip that some hymns can be (and are) sung to different tunes than the ones we use from *Hymnal 1982*! For some of us, that explains why sometimes the words sound familiar, but the tune is not what we remember from another time in our lives. The great fun of that, though, is that we don't like the tune we have, we can look for another that we find easier to sing, or more fitting to the text, or just the one we grew up with. How do we do that? There are several ways. One is to visit a website called Hymnary.org, which catalogs the hymns and tunes used from hundreds of hymnals and allows searches by text, composer, author, tune name, and several other characteristics – even being able to search for a particular note sequence. The more traditional way is to notice that part of the information for each of the hymns in the hymnal is its meter. That's the set of digits at the end of the hymn, like "77. 77 with Alleluias" for "Jesus Christ is risen today." The digits represent the number of syllables in each phrase of the hymn. So this hymn has four, seven-syllable phrases, but with some alleluias included. Of course, there are some special codes that come into play like CM, which stands for Common Meter, and means 86. 86; or CMD, Common Meter Double, which has eight phrases arranged as 86. 86. 86. 86. Other special combinations are LM, Long Meter, and SM, Short Meter, as well as the one for stray cats and dogs: Irr(egular). To help in contemplating substitute hymn tunes for a particular text, a "Metrical Index of Tunes" is available in the accompaniment edition of the hymnal. For some hymns, the hymnal editors have already included two versions in the hymnal with different tunes, like "O little town of Bethlehem," (hymns 78 and 79). If you look at the information about those hymns, you will see that they do, in fact, share the same meter, CMD, but have different hymn tune names, "Forest Green" and "St. Louis."

A word of warning, though: just because the numbers work, don't be surprised if a text just doesn't "fit" another tune of the same meter. Other factors may be at play (like how accents fall in the text- do you remember hearing about iambic (short-long) pentameter in high school English? Iambic verse won't fit well with a tune that is set up for dactylic (long-short) meter because the accents are reversed.

There. The secret is out. No sleight of hand – just music. Magic or not, it's fun to explore the hymnal and see what you can learn about our rich hymnody.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Alan

St. James' Book Club



The plan is to meet socially distant at an outside space. Details will be shared soon. The book for November 12 is *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. The book for December 10 is *Summer's Lease* by John Mortimer. Please call Lib Mueller (703) 360-0561 or Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 if you want to know more. All are welcome!

From Chris, Junior Warden

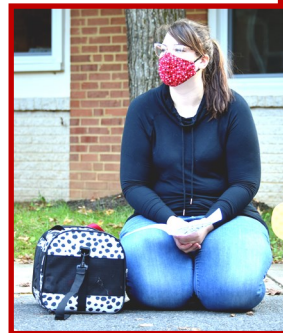
By the time the newsletter reaches you, we are deep into the Fall season. As Halloween passes, we now move into the holiday season and the end of the year. Your Vestry is still hard at work, ensuring that the church's business is being handled appropriately. Earlier this month, we held our monthly vestry meeting, and we discussed many different topics. One discussion, in general, was the Fall Clean-Up day. Be sure to read Andy's article in the newsletter, which gives you a glimpse into some of the transformative works that have taken place on the grounds of St. James. A big Thank You to all who came by and helped out.

We will begin looking for new members to serve on the Vestry for 2021 soon. If you are interested in serving the church in this or a similar capacity, please contact Father Charles or me.

By the mailing of this newsletter, you should have received your pledge card in the mail. When you get a moment, please fill it out and drop it in the mail. With the ongoing pandemic, the coming year may be challenging; however, I am hopeful that we will get through this together as one church family.



Blessing of the Animals on October 4, 2020



Visit the St. James' website www.StJamesMV.org to see a slideshow of our Blessing of the Animals service.

Keep Your Pledge Current with 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



Upcoming at St. James'

November 18, 6:30pm Play Virtual Bingo with St. James'
Links and details will be included in the weekly E-Pistle

November 25, 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service on Zoom



From Mary, Administration & Finance



COVID-19 has changed the landscape of the world and changed St. James'. Where we were able to come and go freely in and out of our church building, now we can't. Where we used to see each other in person frequently, we must now settle for virtual worship and fellowship. We once were very confident in our budget and because of you, we never questioned if we would be able to keep the doors open and lights on. While our financial situation is not as dire as other churches, we still do not know what the future holds. Sitting in Vestry Meetings, it is easy to read what is black and white and have questions that can not be answered. However, it does not show our story. It does not show the committee that organically formed to work in the yard and those who pledged to create a Garden Fund. Or the guardian angels that have come through to help with surprise maintenance issues. Or why, even in the midst of a global pandemic, we still meet on Sundays, for Bible study on

Wednesdays, participate in Choir Happy Hour, attend Brotherhood meetings, watch the children videos and share the bulletins with our youth, like our Facebook page, and the check-ins from parishioner to parishioner. I have faith in my church family that we will come out of this pandemic stronger as a church, more committed than ever, and ready for the future.

Potomac Region Racial Justice Committee

The Potomac Region Racial Justice Committee has been hard at work since June. Over 1,500 postcards were sent across the country reminding people to register to vote and the deadlines for absentee voting. They also set up a phone bank just before the election. If you are interested in getting involved in future advocacy efforts with the Virginia Interfaith Council, please contact Mary Bramley.

Beginning on November 8, the Racial Justice Committee will begin a 21-day anti-racism challenge. Each day, you will receive an email with a blog to read, a podcast to listen to, or some other resource for you to personally reflect on your understanding power, privilege, supremacy, oppression and equity. All are invited to embark on this important learning experience. If you are interested in participating or want to learn more, please contact Mary Bramley at maryfbramley@gmail.com.





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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U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 14
MOUNT VERNON, VA



Wednesday, November 25, 7pm

Join us for online Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service
Zoom link will be posted on the church website

www.stjamesmv.org