



St. James' Notes



November & December 2021



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',

As I write we are in the middle of our annual stewardship campaign. Thank you all for all the ways in which you support our church community.

The people of St. James' are generous, with giving that supports not only our operating expenses but also our mortgage, which accounts for about a third of our budget. But we are facing a financially challenging time for the church.

Some of our challenges are related to the coronavirus pandemic. Our income from the Vine Preschool has been more than halved due to health restrictions that prevent the school from operating at full capacity.

Other challenges come with the responsibility of maintaining an aging physical plant, with unpredictable repair expenses. Our HVAC system is a frequent cause for expensive service visits.

In recent years the church has become financially dependent on fewer and larger annual pledges. A change in just one or two of these pledges makes the difference between a balanced budget and a challenging deficit.

Your Vestry works hard to steward this church, and to operate within its financial realities. I ask you to reflect prayerfully on how you support our community, and to consider if you might make or increase your commitment for the coming year. And as always, I ask you to join me in giving thanks for the blessing that St. James' is, for us and for the world.

In Christ,
Charles+



Thanksgiving Evening Prayer
Wednesday, November 24, 7:30pm



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

Chris Marbaker (2022)
Sr. Warden, Admin & Finance

Andy Wormser (2023)
Jr. Warden, Plant & Property

Mckayla Braden (2022)
Mission & Outreach

Mary Bramley (2023)
Evangelism & Publicity

Chad Duffield (2024)
Fundraising

James Eustis (2023)
Parish Activities

Mary Lowe (2024)
Christian Education

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Susan Clark
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Clean-Up Day

We had a beautiful Saturday morning to do our semi-annual St. James' clean up of our grounds. Our landscaping company gave us a good start, clearing the parking lot islands and the area around the trees closest to the gallery. They'll start sprouting grass instead of weeds in the coming days and weeks. Our small but intrepid team was joined by a strong contingent of Ghanaian congregants. Together, we bagged a ton of leaves, weeded the front garden bed and trimmed a few trees.



Evangelism & Publicity

2021 is coming to a close after another unprecedented year. I started another new job, did almost no travelling, and have started going back into the office full time. This is another year that unexpectedly looks different than the year before it and the year before that.

St. James' also looks different! We have welcomed guests who were visiting for the weekend or a few months and have new families. Once we thought broadcasting a live service was impossible, now we do so each week. We are able to be inclusive to our community who cannot make it to church each week, while also opening our doors to friends across the country. Our videos get viewed throughout the week, taking the Sunday out of church! It is quite incredible that neither distance nor a global pandemic can separate us. While we continue to get back to normal, I hope we do not return to business as usual, keeping our worship open and accessible to all, no matter where they are.

If you are on Facebook, please remember to like and share our videos. It is another great way to "bring" a friend to church without having to leave your couch! We would also love to see your friends and family in person, so don't forget to bring them on Sunday mornings.

Mary Bramley



From the Junior Warden

As the leaves are turning color and falling off the trees, my thoughts turn to the end of the year, holidays and time spent with family—in our homes and our St. James' family.

I am grateful that God has allowed our St. James' community to stay safe and strong during the pandemic. Seeing so many faces in church on Sunday—and having strong numbers watching our Facebook Live services is truly heartwarming. Bit by bit we're returning to a sense of normalcy—not completely yet, but I can sense it's on its way.

As you read this, we're still in stewardship season here at St. James'. With the continued economic strains of the pandemic and the work being done at the rectory to spruce it up, St. James' needs your help more than ever. We have a strong community. Of that there is no doubt. But we also need to keep our physical house in order. Please pledge all you can to help us meet our financial needs for the coming year.

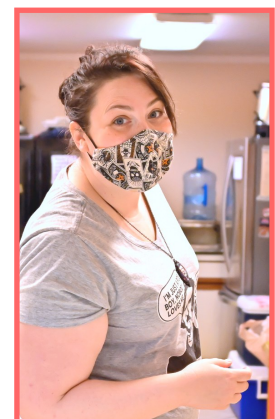
I wish you all great blessings for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Andy Wormser



Yard & Bake Sale

St. James' Yard Sale on October 2 was a great success! Why? Because everyone pitched in with donations, work, purchases, and then companionship. We surpassed our goal of \$2000 by raising \$2364 that day, with more on-line sales still coming in. The bake & book sale raised a quarter of that. Remaining items went to help the poorest in Appalachia, Purple Heart veterans, working-poor vendors in DC, and were saved for next year. Next Year . . .? If you want a "Next Year Sale" tell the vestry and pledge to help; start sorting and saving. And celebrate—it takes a congregation for success. Thanks!



Mission & Outreach

Mission of the 4th Quarter ~ 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 or more Target or Walmart gift card. Cards are due by November 30. You may deliver your cards to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday. We plan to 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. Everyone was so generous last year; thanks in advance for supporting the Virtual Angel Tree again this year.

McKayla Braden



Coming in January 2022, the Mission of the First Quarter will be Episcopal Relief and Development. They do such important work all across the world. Details in the next newsletter.

Parish Activities

Greetings St. James' family,

The year has been going quickly in the Eustis household; it's hard to believe we're well into Autumn and winter is just around the corner – but the chills in the morning must mean it's true! I hope you and your families are doing well and enjoying all the beauty that the change in the season offers.

During our Vestry meetings we regularly share our “sightings of the spirit” in our daily lives. I often witness these sightings through the experiences of my children (any anyone who's served on vestry with me will attest to) and wanted to share the latest such instance.

One of the – increasingly early – signs of the changing season is the arrival of Christmas toy catalogues. After circling approximately every item I asked my boys “why do we celebrate Christmas?”, worrying we'd have a conversation about consumerism, it's not about the gifts, etc. Imagine my surprise after my oldest thought about it for a moment before asserting “because it's our duty as Christians!” He went on to talk about making sure we “give gifts so that poor people have a nice Christmas too.” There was a lot more to our discussion, and I don't know how much of his finer details fit within the textbook teachings of the bible. But I can say that Owen understands his ‘duty’ as a Christian, and member of St. James', and the spirit is with him.

I hope it is with you and yours, and I look forward to celebrating the coming season together!

Best,

James Eustis



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

Among my favorite carols is "Good King Wenceslas." It tells of the saintly king who notices a poor man in his realm and is determined to ensure that he has firewood and a proper feast. He teaches a lesson to his page about enduring adversity and sets a path for him to follow through the deepening snow. All of this is set on the Feast of St. Stephen, which is celebrated on December 26th. The carol was written in the mid-19th century by an English clergyman, John Mason Neale, and set to a 13th century Easter hymn tune.



"Good King Wenceslas" doesn't appear in our hymnal, but there are thirty-nine other Christmas carols that are included. It is always a challenge to incorporate as many of these as possible into our worship during Christmastide, and we never seem to get to all of them. This year, we will adapt the Sunday service after Christmas (December 26) to sing as many Christmas carols as possible.

I invite you to let me know which carols you would like to sing. Look for an insert in the Sunday service program, or send me an email. I look forward to a service filled with song and Christmas joy!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Alan

We had a beautiful Saturday morning to do our semi-annual St. James' clean up of our grounds. Our landscaping company gave us a good start, clearing the parking lot islands and the area around the trees closest to the gallery. They'll start sprouting grass instead of weeds in the coming days and weeks. Our small but intrepid team was joined by a strong contingent of Ghanaian congregants. Together, we bagged a ton of leaves, weeded the front garden bed and trimmed a few trees.

Hymn Sing at December 26 Worship



Christmas Hymn Requests for Sunday, December 26

Number	Title or First Line

Submitted by _____

Please pick Hymns from 77 to 115 in The Hymnal 1982.

Requests are due by December 19 to church office.

Prayers

Happy Birthday

November

- 3 Mary Whitehouse
- 4 Mike Morgan
- 10 Gavin Collins
- 24 Chris Iber

December

- 1 Ray Smith
- 3 Peg Iber
- 10 Adriana Rodriguez
- 12 T. J. Cleary
- 25 *Our Lord & Savior*

Happy Anniversary

November 15, 1975
Rick & Andy De La Cour

November 20, 1965
Michael & Cheryl Viani

November 22, 2003
Charles & Heidi Brock



We pray for strength, guidance, and healing for: Esther, Muriel Sue, Paula, Fred, Karla, Pat, Elias, Michael & Denise, Jamie & Nancy, Renée, Anne, Arthur, Eliot, Molly, Beth and the Siegert Family.

Rectory Update

The past few months have seen lots of work at the rectory, as we've done necessary repairs and maintenance to prepare it for rent. It should be ready to show to prospective renters in just a few weeks.

The Vestry has had extensive conversations about the possibility of selling the rectory. The rectory and the property surrounding it are valuable assets for the church that have appreciated along with the rest of the housing market... on the other hand, the proceeds from a sale could be used to pay down the existing church mortgage, which would relieve one of the largest financial obligations of the church and permit a more sustainable annual budget.

The Vestry anticipates holding a congregational meeting soon to inform and discuss these possibilities facing the church. A decision to move forward to sell the rectory will require a vote by the congregation, which has not yet been called for.



Assisting in Worship in November

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 24	November 28
	All Saints	Pentecost 25	Morning Prayer	Thanksgiving Eve	Advent 1
Celebrant Preacher	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock		The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Officiant			Chris Micklewright	Proclamation David Batcheller	
Readers	Marghe Bowker Andy Wormser	Ali Duffield Ryan Duffield	McKayla Braden Mike Morgan Mark Braden	Peg Iber Tim Myers Janet Fallin	Mary Blair Marghe Bowker
Prayer Leader	Chris Micklewright	James Eustis	Diana Courtney	TBD	Bob Blair
Ushers	Ray Smith TBD	TBD TBD	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Bob Blair Mary Blair
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Vestryperson	Chris Marbaker	Mary Bramley	James Eustis	Mary Bramley	Mary Bramley
Counter	Andy Wormser	James Eustis	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team

Assisting in Worship in December

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24	December 26
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	6pm Christmas Eve	Hymn Sing
Celebrant Preacher	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock Chris Micklewright	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Readers	Suzanne Synnestvedt Chris Micklewright	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Janet Fallin Marghe Bowker	Mary Lowe Suzanne Synnestvedt	Ali Duffield David Batcheller
Prayer Leader	Mike Morgan	James Eustis	Mary Lowe	Mike Morgan	Ryan Duffield
Ushers	Peg Iber Ellen Cleary	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Wayne Johnson Barbara Riley	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Ray Smith Chad Duffield
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Vestryperson	Andy Wormser	McKayla Braden	Mary Lowe	Chris Marbaker	Mary Bramley
Counter	Andy Wormser	James Eustis	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team



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Christmas at St. James'

December 19, 4:00pm

Greening of the Church

December 24, 6pm

Christmas Eve Service

December 26, 10:00am

Hymn Sing & Worship

January 2, 10:00am

Three Kings Sunday