



# St. James' Notes



October 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.*

**Dear People of St. James',**

We are always thinking about how to invite and welcome people to experience the community that we love here at St. James'. Casual Church, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, has been one way we have been building awareness of St. James' in our surrounding neighborhood.



One of our most popular neighborhood events is the annual Blessing of the Animals, this year at 4pm on Sunday October 6. We always have visitors who are grateful for the opportunity to give thanks for their pets, and I love the being able to welcome them and celebrate the love and fellowship we share.

Another great occasion for introducing people to St. James' is our annual meal-pack event, Rise Against Hunger, also known as Stop Hunger Now (9am on November 23). There is always room for another set of helping hands, and the community of St. James' is strong as we all join in service to the needs of the world. Please plan to come this year with a friend!

In Christ,  
**Charles+**



More about Rise Against Hunger on page 4.



## **Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 6, 4pm**

Bring your cats, dogs, birds, your furry friends and even your not-so-furry friends to be blessed. This is a wonderful community event so invite your friends and neighbors. If weather permits, the blessing will be outside. Enjoy the fellowship of all God's creatures. Treats for animals and people alike will be served.



St. James' Episcopal Church at Mount Vernon  
A parish church in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

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

Susan Clark  
Register

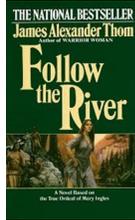
Trustees

Peg Iber  
Lib Mueller  
Ray Smith

*Fall Fellowship & Gathering*  
*When: Sunday, October 20, 4 to 6pm*  
*Where: Home of Ray & Marge Smith*  
*3210 Cunningham Drive*  
*Who: Everyone*  
*Bring: Treats and nibbles to share*



**Book Club**



Like to read? Please join Book Club once a month on the second Thursday at 1:00pm in the church's library. We meet next, Thursday, October 10, to discuss *Follow the River* by James Alexander Thom and in November we read *Guernica* by Dave Boling and will meet Thursday, November 14.



**Prayers**

Happy Birthday

- 4 Joshua Charles Blair
- 4 Amber Tussing
- 4 Francesca Wallace
- 6 Elizabeth Whitehouse
- 12 Chris Nostrand
- 20 James Eustis
- 26 Amanda Braden



Happy Anniversary

- October 11  
James & Katie Eustis
- October 31  
Alan & Elizabeth Moser

**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!





## Mission and Outreach



### Third Quarter Mission

This quarter we are raising funds to support our annual meal-packing event, when we gather to pack meals for over 10,000 people. We need to raise \$2000 to underwrite the cost of the meals and their delivery to places of need. Please support this generously... this is an important ministry of St. James'. You may write your checks to St. James', put "Rise Against Hunger" in the memo line and put your check in the collection plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office (5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria VA 22309). And plan to come with family and friends to participate on Saturday November 23.

**UTO, United Thank Offering,** This 125-year-old program in the Episcopal church helps people, especially children, "Count Their Blessings." We celebrate, by putting a coin in the small box, for those things for which we are thankful instead of wishing for what we don't have. This summer we have been sharing our blessings and learning how our Church uses the donations to jump-start innovative outreach, and problem-solving programs. Our UTO 2019 offerings will be collected on Sunday November 3.

## From Evangelism



Have you ever wanted to be where you are but also someplace else at the same time? Is it possible to be spiritually in one place and physically in another, or visa versa? I think about this often and often feel this way. Maybe it's because I am a Pisces, but there is probably more to it than just that. When I am at our family home at the shore, I am so happy and think about how fortunate my family is for the blessings we have received. It is so beautiful here in the fall; the colors of the sky and the water are so vibrant; the air, as I write this, is so refreshing. I never want to leave! And when I am in Virginia and at St. James', I am equally as happy, and see every day God's blessings when I am driving the GW Parkway or watering our Cloister Garden, which has been so lovely this summer. Have you walked the path and felt the happiness and the calm the flowers impart? God's blessings are all around us enticing me to find a way to capture them - in a bottle perhaps? and hold tightly so they can't slip

away. It is so true that our fast paced lives often give us little chance to be physically and spiritually in the same place at the same time. But, St. James' offers us the piece and quiet and calm that God gives us every day in nature. When I am not there on Sundays, I always think about how peaceful I feel when I am in church, the spirit that surrounds me there, and how I want to keep that sense of clam and love close wherever I am. We should always remember that God holds us closely, and, we hold our friends and family close to our hearts, even if not physically present. Wherever we are throughout the coming months as the trees and flowers prepare for the coming winter, remember God's love and beauty that surrounds us all, and please share our blessings and what St. James' offers with others. We are truly fortunate.

*McKayla Braden*

# Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

This month's Choir Notes are penned by Bob Fitz in response to my column last month. I invite you to hear and think about his story below. Thank you, Bob, for sharing this with us.



Soli Deo Gloria!  
Alan Moser

*Dear fellow Parishioners,*

*I write this knowing that in a few short weeks Jane and I will be moving a few hours away from the Mount Vernon area and our beloved St. James'. That means we will no longer be participating in our worship services as a member of the choir. It is a loss that will be regretted deeply. Why, you may ask. A bit of history: my family and I moved into the area the summer of 1985. While looking for a new church home, we visited St. James'. That was it, a warm and welcoming church, and one that fulfilled us both spiritually and emotionally. Over the years those feelings only intensified. I participated in many church activities and leadership roles but never the choir, primarily because I had never sung in a group setting before and because my family told me I couldn't carry a tune! Many years later, sometime in the early 2000's, our choir director and organist at the time, Debby McConnell happened to hear me sing during one of our services and asked me why didn't I join the choir – she needed another tenor and said my voice was ok. Well, I was surprised and had lots of excuses why I couldn't: no voice training, no ear for how a given note should sound, fear of making a fool of myself, too busy, etc, etc. She was persistent and so we compromised – I joined just for singing in a Good Friday Cantata. Much to my surprise, I enjoyed the experience, and even though I felt like a rank amateur, I survived the performance. Well, that led to further encouragement and I finally said I would give it a try. So for the church year starting in September 2013 I joined. Even though there were some ups and downs over the following years, I persisted. Why, you may ask again!*

*As a member of the choir, you contribute in a very concrete way with the worship services. I found that participation very meaningful and spiritually uplifting. You gain a great understanding of the wealth of musical forms that can be used and how they are incorporated into each kind of service. And as important, there is a camaraderie that is hard to beat!*

*I also found that you really don't need to have any prior experience. Most choir practice sessions include instruction on fundamentals, such as breathing, vocalization, tempo, etc. As a new member, I received tremendous support and encouragement from the other choir singers. I would be remiss if I didn't highlight especially our organist and choir director, Alan Moser, who is a great instructor, always supportive, and willing to go the extra mile to work with any one of us individually if asked (which I did on many occasions!). I have to say that I am surprised at how much I have grown as a chorister and now only wish I had started much earlier.*

*So, how about you? Give the choir a try – you won't regret it.*

*Bob Fitz*



## Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers

St. James' chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew provides volunteers for the Fairfax County Meals on Wheels program on the third Wednesday of each month. We'd like to invite all members of St. James' to consider participating in the Meals on Wheels program. We go in teams of two: one person to drive, the other to "jump." We deliver to the area off Richmond Highway just north of St. James'. It usually takes just over an hour to complete the route. In order to become a volunteer, one must submit an application to Fairfax County Volunteer Services and pass a (very simple) background check. The application may be submitted on-line. If you're interested or would like more information please contact either David Batcheller [dlb703@live.com](mailto:dlb703@live.com) 703-799-8922 or John Thompson [jlt4song@cox.net](mailto:jlt4song@cox.net) 703-718-0911. Thanks and please know how impactful this program is for members of our community who need meals delivered to their homes.



# Schedule of Ministry ~ October 6 to November 3

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	November 3
	Pentecost 17	Pentecost 18	Pentecost 19	Pentecost 20	Pentecost 21
	Casual Church	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Casual Church
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	James Eustis	Ben Justesen	Chris Marbaker	Rosemarie Richard	Mary Jane VandenBerg
Ushers	Bob Blair Mary Blair	Peg Iber Barbara Riley	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Mark Braden McKyala Braden	Susan Clark Ellen Cleary
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Ray Bonniwell	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas
Lesson 1	Agnes Chapman	Ray Bonniwell	Tim Myers	Ray Bonniwell	Tim Myers
Lesson 2	Ray Bonniwell	Janet Fallin	Andy Wormser	Agnes Chapman	Andy Wormser
Prayers	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Ray Bonniwell	David Batcheller	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas
	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	Casual Church	Diana Courtney	Heidi Brock	Katie Eustis	Casual Church
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Bill Iber	Amber Tussing	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas	Peg Iber	The Rev. Pedro Cuevas
Lesson 1	Casual Church	Marghe Bowker	Mark Braden	Bill Iber	Causal Church
Psalm		Ally Duffield	Mary Blair	Ben Justesen	
Lesson 2		Sara Thompson	McKayala Braden	James Eustis	
Prayers		Ryan Duffield	Bob Blair	Suzanne Synnestvedt	
Sacraments	Laurie doCarmo Anne Patrick	Heidi Brock Peg Iber	Duffield Family	Barbara Riley Diana Courtney	Diana Marbaker Family
Acolyte	Ben Justesen	Ryan Duffield	Amber Tussing	Ally Duffield	Amber Tussing
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Wosoogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team
Snack	Eustis Family			Mary Bramley	

# October 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 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
29 September Proper 21	30	1 October	2	3 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	4	5
6 October Proper 22 Casual Church  4pm Blessing of the Animals	7	8   7:15p Vestry	9 11am Bible Study 12pm Holy Eucharist with Healing	10 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry  1:00 Book Club	11	12 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
13 October Proper 23	14	15	16	17   6p Theology on Tap	18	19
20 October Proper 24 St. James' Feast Day  4pm Fall Fellowship Gathering	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 October Proper 25  4pm Trunk or Treat	28	29	30	31	1 November	2

*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)

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**Sunday, October 27**  
**4pm to 5pm**

**Parking lot at St. James' Episcopal Church 5614 Old Mill Road**  
**Everyone is invited, neighbors, friends, ghouls & goblins! Bring your car, pop the trunk**  
**all decorated, share treats, wear costumes, & enjoy fellowship.**