



St. James' Notes

October 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',

It was so good to see so many of St. James' faces on our recent St. James' Zoom Morning Prayer.

During the months while we worshipped with our neighboring Episcopal churches, it was sometimes hard to "see" St. James'. But the community of St. James' continues to be seen in our care for one another, in our care for our church building, in our care for the community that surrounds us.

Our community has been fortunate that within our immediate circle, we have all been well. But many of us have been touched by the impacts of the coronavirus. Some have lost someone close to them, others have lost their job and security. We may suffer by being shut in, or we may be frustrated by being unable to visit a loved one.

We remember those who struggle and suffer during this time. We give thanks for all the ways in which we are able to serve them through acts of prayer, kindness, and generosity. And we praise God for all the ways in which he is with us during this time, through the faith of Jesus.

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

Diana Courtney (2020)
Sr. Warden, Christian Education
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Chris Marbaker (2022)
Jr. Warden, Plant & Property
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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

From Your Vestry



Most years, during the month of August, the Vestry takes a break from meeting. This year though, is not like most years. The Vestry has met each month via Zoom since the start of the pandemic back in March. With 9-10 of us on the call each month, it's always fun to see who ends up being the "Alice" from the Brady Bunch- the face that sits in the center of the Zoom photos.

Even though we are still uncertain at this time when we will be able to meet again at the church, we are working diligently on the upkeep of both the interior and exterior of the church. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the carpet in the hallway from leading to the classrooms has been removed and replaced with laminate flooring. Outside the church, we have hired a company to provide some much-needed landscaping and clean up to the front of the church. Additionally, Vestry members and their families have dedicated their own time sprucing up the exterior of the church. We have resolved issues that have arisen from some of the recent summer storms. Marghe Bowker has spent countless hours selling items on eBay that would have been sold at this year's Yard Sale.

Most importantly we have continued praying for you all. Praying that God is watching over each and every one of you. If you are ever in need of any items, any assistance, or just want a friend to listen, please reach out to any one of the Vestry members. We would also encourage you to join us for coffee hour each Sunday around 11am. The link to joining is emailed out each week, or you can find the information on the church's website. It would be great to see some of your smiling faces that we haven't seen in quite some time.

Sincerely,

Your Vestry (See side box for a list of Vestry members and their contact information.)

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>

From Andy, Fundraising

We're seeing green shoots coming up in the parish gardens - literally and figuratively. The new grass planted outside the sanctuary is taking hold - replacing the overgrowth that had been there. The memorial garden is peaceful and clear. The wildflowers along the fence line continue to grow. The trees have started to be trimmed back and the garden closest to the gallery is clean and under control. And the walking path through the Stations of the Cross is clear and walkable again.

But there are also green shoots coming into the garden renewal fund. A great big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. We've seen contributions of all sizes create seed money for the continued restoration of our grounds. But there's still time to contribute - either with the mailer that came out last month or on-line via the e-giving portal. (Please note the contribution to the garden renewal fund.)

If you'd prefer to give your time, we welcome that, as well. We're having an outside cleanup day on Saturday, October 17 from 9am to noon - socially distanced of course. Come give a big boost to our cleanup efforts.



Fall Clean up Day Saturday, October 17 9am to noon

**All outside.
Bring your own
rakes and gloves!**

OnlineYard 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

I believe that we can all agree that this year has been one full of many emotions. When I saw my neighbor's tree (pictured here), I had to smile—then laugh. Then I thought, I must share this photograph with my family and friends. How wonderful that we can find humor under these difficult circumstances and share it! It's certainly a year we will never forget.



At last week's Zoom service and coffee hour, we were reminded that we have been worshipping 28 weeks online. This was a positive realization for me under the circumstances, but also a sad one for me realizing that we have been physically apart all that time. Not physically being together at St. James' to worship and visit in coffee hour is sad, but on the flip side, there have been benefits and laughter online. Meeting new people and learning about other parishes in the Potomac Region has been a plus. Zoom has also given Mark and me flexibility to worship from our Delaware home, and it given us the opportunity to worship with our family and non-parish friends. It has also been nice to hear all the prayers and remembrances each Sunday for those in need of healing and guidance, for those who are suffering, and prayers for those who have died. The prayers for all working on the front lines of Covid, our Western fires, and for the social healing of our communities has been utterly amazing.

It is comforting to realize that we have a wonderful community of friends across Northern Virginia. And, during this time apart, I have truly enjoyed talking to St. James' parishioners on the phone, some whom I rarely talked to as long or as often; and I feel as though I have made new friends and renewed friendships. If I have not personally talked with you recently, I hope everyone is well and have found comfort and healing in whatever way you have chosen to worship this past 7 months.

Also, please remember our mission of the quarter "The Fairfax County Public Schools Foundation." Across the county children need food, school supplies, and the basics for a successful school year. The need is always great at Rising Hope and Community Ministries as well.

Thanks so much for your contributions and prayers for our work. If you send donations directly to an organization or online, not through the church, please let Jenny know of your gift.

Thanks so much.

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



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, Lynn & David, Raquel and her family, Rowan and his family.

Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

September 27 brought joy to my heart as we gathered once again as the St. James' family. Although many new connections were made with the area consortium with whom we were worshipping, and different ways of seeing the same picture were shared, it was nice to be home again. (Yes, you can go home again, Thomas Wolfe, although things won't always be the same.)



As part of "going home," I am having fun looking at hymns to suggest for Sunday online Morning Prayer. Some of the criteria in my mind include the text's alignment with the lectionary readings for the day and the familiarity of the hymn so that we can sing it easily from the text on a slide without the tune's music score. This search reminded me of the power of hymns: remember that the hymn is the words and it is poetry that has been written to praise God and to teach us God's way. It is very instructive to read the text of hymns as originally written - in the form of poetry, and to see how the verse fit together; this is sometimes difficult when we see them interlaced among the notes of the tune, and split into four or five selected verses, occasionally omitting more verses than are included.

In thinking about Blessing of Animals, I was reading the text of "All things bright and beautiful," and found several interesting points as a result. First, this hymn was written by Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander as a means of illustrating the catechism to her children. What I discovered in this reading, and discussions of the text, is that Mrs. Alexander also is responsible for several other hymns that I, at least, had never associated with each other. Among these are "*I bind unto myself this day, the strong name of the Trinity* [H82: 370]," "*Once in royal David's city* [H82: 105]," "*There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall* [H82: 167]," "*He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice* [H82: 180]," and "*Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea* [H82: 549,550]."

So as we return to worship together as St. James' Episcopal Church, although not in person, perhaps this is a time to take a new look at the hymns of the church. Pick an author; perhaps you would like to see what hymns are ancient, and which modern; maybe it would interest you to look at what hymns were written by women, or at the national origin of your favorite hymn. Maybe you'd like to see what has been selected, omitted, or modified in your favorite hymn. If I can help you in your examination of our hymns, please don't hesitate to ask. In the meantime, sing to the Lord a new song!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Alan

Stay Connected

Want a Directory?

We have printed directories. They are updated monthly and you can email Jenny and she will send you a pdf or a printed version. Just ask.
Office@stjamesmv.org



Join the St. James' Book Club

The plan is to meet socially distant at an outside space. Details will be shared soon. The book for October 8 is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The book for November 12 is *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. Please call Lib Mueller (703) 360-0561 or Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 if you want to know more. All are welcome!



Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday, November 1, so you will be on time for online church the

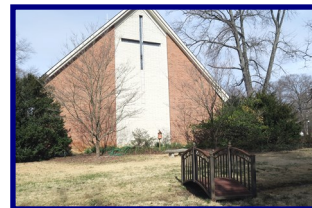
From Mary, Administration & Finance

As we enter what would have been our second month of the start of the program year, I am hopeful that we will all find the ways that we still are "One Together" at St. James'. Meeting virtually in worship or keeping up with each other on social media, we remain a community that is deeply committed to our faith.

It is that time of year for us to reflect on what it means to be together in these unprecedented times. We have rethought how we worship, how we fellowship, and how we remain connected. Whether it was choir virtual happy hours, bible study, vestry members calling to check-in, or virtual meetings, I felt connected to my church family even without going to a church building.

Since we can't meet in person, I am hoping you will join me at some of these events coming up:

- **Thursday, October 15, 7pm** - St. James' Virtual Bingo - Join us for an evening of online bingo. Free for everyone! The bingo card link will be emailed out closer to the date.
- **Saturday, October 31, 10am** - Daughters of the King Virtual meeting and Morning Devotions .



Stations of the Cross

Thank you Ray Bonniwell!

Ray and his team diligently worked to clean up our outside Statins of the Cross. He reports that "all the stations of the cross have been cleaned up, pathways cut back and clear edged as far as possible. Many hours of serious JUNGLE whacking not weed whacking. Many trees needed a lot of chainsaw work as they had fallen over on pathways and stations and on the bridge. Bridge handrails were removed, as these were broken by a falling tree (having a think about how I can repair this). Dealt with two large bee hives that caused a few stings and athletic sprints I haven't done in 20 years."

All are invited for a social distanced walk in a lovely wooded area, to pray and sit on a bench and relax outside in His presence.



Pictures taken by David Batcheller

From Diana, Senior Warden

I saw a photo the other day of a construction tube (you know the tunnel-like item that they use to drop garbage down) painted orange and decorated with black bats, witch hats and pumpkins. It was attached a front door of a house, travelled over a few front porch steps, and ended on what looked to be a sidewalk in front of the house. The caption for the photo read “Trick or Treating 2020”. While it was meant to be funny, reality sunk in that this Halloween was not going to be like any other I had experienced in my lifetime.



I immediately thought how great those plastic masks that I wore for Halloween back in the '80s would be this year—sort of a 2 for 1—coronavirus protection and Halloween attire. All kidding aside, the holiday season that is rapidly approaching is going to be quite different. I am envisioning airports and train stations not quite as jam-packed as they have been in years past. I'm envisioning less massive Black Friday crowds, and more online shopping. Less holiday get-togethers and more virtual parties. And I am thinking to myself “would any of that really be all that bad?” I know most of us love the traditions that the holidays bring; the parties, the festivities, the hustle and bustle of the season. But where is our focus with all of that? Is it spending way too much on the costume that your child “has to have” even though he or she will only be wearing it for a couple of hours at best? Is it scouring the stores of the internet for the best deal that we can score on Black Friday, Cyber Monday or even the evening of Thanksgiving all while we could be using that time to spend with family? Is it getting the best gift at the office gift exchange? Is it taking our kids to a beautiful all-inclusive resort in a tropical destination to avoid the drama of going to the in-laws?

I know that God always has a purpose; He always brings something good out of something bad. Is all that is happening in our world His way of telling us to refocus our lives and our priorities on Him? Is He getting us to a place in our lives where we are so desperate that all that is left for us to do is to cry out to Him for help? I remember hearing as a child that “God will only give you what you can handle” and admittedly thinking at times, “God, maybe you could have a little less confidence in my ability to handle things.” But I wouldn't change the challenges that I have faced in life for anything. Those challenges have shown me what is truly important in life. They have deepened my relationship with Christ and have released me from a life burdened with worry and stress. They have reminded me why God created me and given me confidence in the gifts He has provided to me.

My prayer for you is that you embrace the changes that lie ahead in the world we live in today. That you have an open heart and mind and seek to see the “new world” through His eyes. That you reflect on the



lesson or lessons that He is trying to show you. That you deepen your relationship with Jesus and rest in the peace that He will carry you through whatever trials may come your way.

While I may not be decorating a construction tube for Halloween, I am looking forward to the new ways that I can honor God this holiday season. Don't let these challenging times frustrate you. Use the time to reflect on your relationship with Jesus and find new ways to honor Him.

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 ways in which you support St. James'.





St. James' Episcopal Church
Mount Vernon, VA
5614 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309-3332
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MOUNT VERNON, VA

All Saints' Day Remembrances

Please list the names of departed family and friends you wish remembered in
our intercessions on Sunday, November 1, 2020

In Remembrance of _____

Requested by _____

Please return this information by email (office@stjamesmv.org) or mail by
Sunday, October 25, to the church office. 5614 Old Mill Road. Alexandria VA 22309.