



St. James' Notes

September 2018



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',

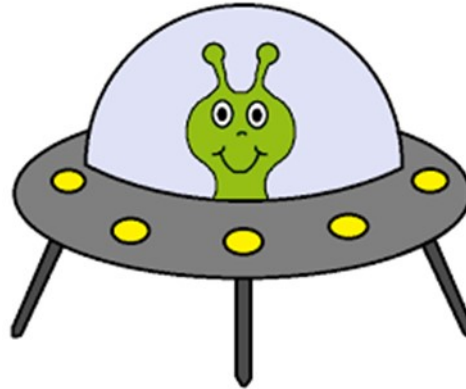
If an alien from outer space was to visit, it would have many things to learn about our language and our culture. Eventually it would observe our religions. How would it identify the people that call themselves Christians?

We are Christians because we follow Jesus Christ and the message he preached of God's love that keeps us in full relationship with him. But what makes us appear Christian to an outside observer?

Christian life is shaped by how we respond to the gift of God's love for us. And so our alien might observe that our lives are filled with acts of love and service, guided by concern and care for the weak and the vulnerable. The alien might wonder at how gratitude fills our lives. Most of all he might be struck by the spirit of peace that comes from our confidence that God is in all things.

What might most surprise our alien is how Christians invite him to know the same blessings. For everything that a Christian does is an invitation for others to join us in a world filled with God. As we treat others with God's love and dignity, so we invite them into the kingdom of heaven.

In Christ,
Charles+



October 13 Holiday Yard Sale & BBQ

The St. James' Holiday Yard Sale will be Saturday, October 13, in conjunction with the Brotherhood's BBQ. The yard sale will feature Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and other holiday decorations and items. Please donate your unwanted holiday treasures, making sure your donations are clean and in good condition. Collection boxes will be provided in Braxton Hall and the Gallery starting on September 2. If you have questions, please call Cheryl Viani at (703) 360-8799 or Laurie doCarmo at (703) 780-8054. Tax deduction forms will be available.



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

Rt. Rev. Robert Wilkes Ihloff
Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Charles F. Brock
Rector

Staff

Jenny Kennedy
Parish Administrator

Alan Moser
Director of Music

Vestry

Ray Smith (2019)
Senior Warden, Admin/Finance
Plant & Property

Mary Bramley (2019)
Jr. Warden; Growth & Evangelism

Diana Courtney (2021)
Youth Christian Education/Activities

Ben Justesen (2020)
Adult Christian Education

Rosemarie Richard (2020)
Parish Events

Chris Marbaker (2019)
Mission & Outreach

John Thompson (2021)
Mission & Outreach

Mary Jane Van den Berg (2021)
Parish Family

Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Marge Smith
Register

Trustees

Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Mission and Outreach

Third Quarter Mission

The mission for the third quarter is Rise Against Hunger (formally called Stop Hunger Now) and will take place on Saturday, November 17. We will need as many hands that are able to help pack 10,000 meals for those in need across the globe. Additionally, we are raising funds to help cover the cost of the materials. Please make checks out to St. James' Episcopal Church and in the memo line, write "Rise Against Hunger."



Red Wagon for Rising Hope Mission

Thank you to all who continuously give food to the Red Wagon which has a direct impact on our local community. Every week when you are shopping for groceries, think of the hungry and pick up some canned or non-perishable foods to bring to church as a part of your Sunday offering. You can put your food offering in the Red Wagon in the back of the church, and it will be blessed along with all of our offerings during our Sunday service. The food is delivered each week to Rising Hope Mission Church to support their ministry to the homeless and hungry along the Route 1 corridor.



Interested in getting involved in the local and global outreach programs at St. James'? Please let me know by sending me an email (chris.marbaker@gmail.com). If you have served on the committee before, and are interested in continuing to serve, please let me know. The Outreach Committee will meet on Sunday, September 23, after the 10:15am worship service in the office meeting room.

Chris Marbaker

Education for Ministry Program Open to All

How can I connect my daily life to what I read in the Bible and in theological texts? That is the central question undergirding the Education for Ministry program, organized by the University of the South, and taking place at nearby Pohick Church (9301 Richmond Highways in Lorton). Our lively and reflective EFM group consists of six to twelve adult participants, and has two trained mentors. We meet for two and a half to three hours, over the course of a nine-month academic year, for thoughtful and sometimes life changing discussions and a light dinner. The four-year program consists of studies in Old & New Testaments, Church History and Theology. The tuition fee is \$375 per year, and there is financial aid available. Students need only to commit to one year at a time. Contact Denise McHugh at (410) 300-9867 (mobile); dmchugh@umd.edu or Hank Foresman at 540-529-2592; keydet@me.com. Our sessions will be held on Monday evenings, from 7 to 9:30pm, starting mid-September.

Want a Directory?

We have printed directories. They are available on the credenza by the church office or you can email Jenny and she will send you a pdf or a printed version.
Office@stjamesmv.org

Choir Notes

Dear Friends,

a new song! Did you hear it? A new SONG! Now do you hear it? A NEW SONG! All around us are the songs of God's creation. And there is a song to be sung - we will sing it on September 9, our kick-off for the new program year at St. James'. There are backpacks and briefcases to be blessed, picnics to be shared, and yes, A NEW SONG! to be sung. Well, maybe it's not new to everyone; in fact, it's the last of the summertime hymn requests, but for me it fits so well with going back to school that we saved it for now. It's called *Earth and all stars*; you can find it in *Hymnal 1982* at number 412. Lutheran pastor Dr. Herb Brokering wrote that he "tried to gather into a hymn of praise the many facets of life which emerge in the life of community." I think his catalog also reminds us of the songs of all of creation around us. All these entities "sing to the Lord a new song!"



I was curious, so I consulted Strong's *Exhaustive Bible Concordance* to get an idea of how often the word "sing" appears in the King James Version of the bible. The answer is 102, and 56 of those are in the Psalms. A little more surfing, and I found that there are 176 verses in the Psalms alone where one or more of the words, "sing," "song," or "praise," is used. We are constantly reminded to sing and praise. Perhaps you can already hear the songs of praise in the wind and rain, and in the flowers and trees, in the newly returned school athletes and bands. Listen for Dr. Brokering's whole list when we sing, with your help, *Earth and all stars*.

A new song! Do you hear it now? I hope you will be ready to agree with Pastor Brokering as he says, "I, too, will praise him with a new song!"

Soli Deo gloria,
Alan Moser

Growth & Evangelism

It is the start of a new program year at St. James'. It is that time when we look to recommit to the committees and events we participated in last year, look for new opportunities, and reconnect with the active church. We have many upcoming events to welcome the start of a new year. First, St James' Next is getting ready to go into full swing with events. Be on the lookout for emails on upcoming outings! Theology on Tap will kick off this month as well. Theology on Tap is a lively discussion group that dives deeper into a different topic each month around our faith in our everyday lives in a relaxed social setting. Theology on Tap will also start a quarterly event "Ask a Priest", giving participants an opportunity to ask Charles questions about anything relating to faith, church service, or anything you just wanted to know about being an Episcopalian. Adult Forum officially begins again on September 9, a time to discuss further the context of the readings and their meanings. These are three great groups that you can invite your friends to join you to see what church is about.



**Meet outside Church
to discuss topics of
interest to our faith.**



**For young adults
and those with
young families.**



Adult Forum on Sundays

Our New Heating and Cooling

We are so Cool!

Over the summer we had installed a new air conditioner that services Braxton Hall and the Preschool's Baby Room. Everyone noticed the difference of even, consistent, cool temperatures. The old unit was dismantled and carted off to be recycled and the new unit was put in place next to the kitchen door. As part of our 60th Anniversary Campaign we raised money to replace this AC unit and our furnace. The furnace was installed this summer as well and we will give it a test run as soon as the outside temperatures allow. Thanks again to everyone involved.



Old unit as it was being disassembled.



Our shiny new AC unit.

Thank You

Bulletin Board



Seldon Walker was ordained to the diaconate on June 9 with the support of his St. James' friends. He will be serving as an Associate at historic Christ Church in Old Town. Congratulations to Seldon and April!

*Dear Fr. Charles & All of St. James',
Thank you so much for supporting me, by being present at the ordination service.
It was truly a joy and an honor to have you present on that most special occasion.
I know that our paths will cross again but until that time comes may God continue
to bless you and hold you in His loving arms.
In God's Love, Seldon Walker*

Hello St. James'!

I hope everyone is well! My family and I wanted to say thank you for a great summer! It went by too fast. As I start my senior year, I feel so much richer for my time with you all. Seminary is a time of formation, and this past summer was one of the most rewarding and spiritually formative experiences during my time at VTS. From being mentored by Fr. Charles to serving on Sundays to coffee hour conversations, I cherish every moment of our time together. I am especially thankful for the welcome you all showed my family. During our time with you we never felt like outsiders. We felt welcomed and part of the community. You have something special at St. James', and I will continue to keep you in my prayers.

Peace and God's blessing.

Daniel, Shannon, Logan, Aubry, and Rhys



From the Senior Warden

As the fall approaches, I reflect on the summer at St. James'. Our 60th Anniversary as a parish of the Diocese of Virginia was celebrated with a wonderful Sunday morning service followed by a picnic. The Rev. Richard Stinson, a former Rector of St. James', was the guest preacher at that service.

At its July meeting, the Vestry elected Chris Marbarker to fill the Vestry vacancy created by the resignation of Peggy Rudesheim.

Due to the generosity of our members to our "60 for 60 Campaign," we were able to replace the water heater, boiler and Braxton Hall HVAC system. Earlier this year, the Braxton Hall windows were replaced. When the contractors were replacing the boiler, they inspected the chimney and found chimney swifts in residence. After about two months or more the birds had raised their family and moved away. If they return next spring they will need to find another chimney as ours will be capped.

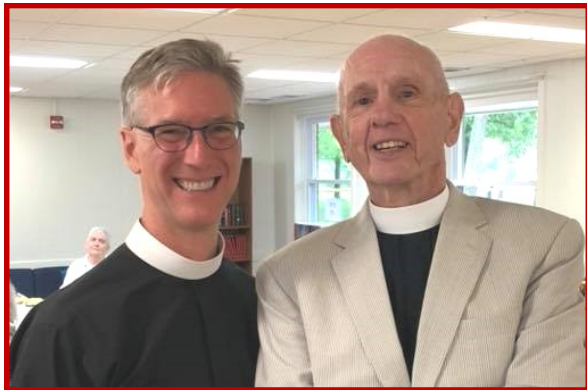
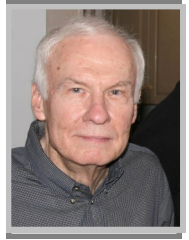
We were fortunate to have Daniel Johnson as our summer seminarian. Certainly, his ministry with us was of mutual benefit. On his journey to become a priest, Daniel received valuable experience by participating in our church life and by having Fr. Charles as a mentor. We in turn were enriched by his participation and the presence of his family with us on Sunday mornings.

This spring I thought the church grass mowing was covered for the season but as it turned out our help was not reliable. We owe Ben Justesen a big thank you in appreciation for the mowing he has done this summer. As I write this article, there is a new mowing service on the job.

On September 9, we will have our Fall Picnic which marks the start of our fall events and programs. The choir will be back singing, Sunday School will be starting, the Animal Blessing will happen in a few weeks, and the annual BBQ and Bake Sale will be on Saturday, October 13.

As you can see, we at St. James' will be in full swing this fall as we strive to carry out the Lord's work.

Ray Smith



Father Charles and the Rev. Richard Stinson
at our 60th Anniversary Celebration!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 George Holthaus
- 3 Marshall Braden
- 7 Andy De La Cour
- 14 Naomi Iber
- 15 Sean Wallace
- 19 Spencer Wallace
- 28 Nancy Mow Sherick



Happy Anniversary to:

Sean & Francesca Wallace
September 24, 2005

Schedule of Ministry ~ September 2 to October 7

	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30	October 7
	Proper 17	Proper 18	Proper 19	Proper 20	Proper 21	Proper 22
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock	The Rev. Charles Brock
Vestry Person	Ben Justesen	Mary Jane Van den Berg	Ray Smith	Mary Bramley	Rosemarie Richard	Ben Justesen
Welcoming Team	Ellen Cleary	Mike Morgan	Lib Mueller	Mike Morgan	Mary Bramley	Ellen Cleary
Ushers	Mike Morgan TBD	Peg Iber Ellen Cleary	Wayne Johnson Chad Duffield	Ray Smith Marge Smith	Mark Braden Mckayla Braden	Peg Iber Barbara Riley
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Chalice	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman
Lesson 1	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson	David Batcheller	Agnes Chapman	Janet Fallin	Tim Myers
Lesson 2	Tim Myers	Andy Wormser	Tim Myers	David Batcheller	Stan Dawson	Andy Wormser
Prayers	Stan Dawson	Janet Fallin	Stan Dawson	Andy Wormser	Tim Myers	David Batcheller
		10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Sunday School	Summer Break	Diana Courtney	TBD	TBD	TBD	No Sunday School
	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am	10:15am
Chalice	Chris Marbaker	Marghe Bowker	Bob Fitz	Bill Iber	Peg Iber	Mike Morgan
Lesson 1	Mike Morgan	James Eustis	Cheryl Nostrand	Marghe Bowker	Bill Iber	Nancy Sherick
Psalm	Mary Bramley	Ryan Duffield	Peg Iber	Bob Fitz	Mark Braden	Mary Blair
Lesson 2	Nancy Sherick	Bob Fitz	Mike Morgan	Ben Justesen	McKayla Braden	Suzanne Synnestvedt
Prayers	Allison Duffield	Bill Iber	Suzanne Synnestvedt	Peg Iber	Ben Justesen	Bob Blair
Sacraments	Barbara Riley Lib Muller	Kevin Diana Chris Marbaker	Heidi Brock Diana Courtney	Barbara Riley Laurie doCarmo	Brown Family	Bob Blair Mary Blair
Acolyte	Ryan Duffield	Chris Marbaker	Ben Justesen	Elizabeth Lowman	Ally Duffield	Ryan Duffield
Organist	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
Counter	Nancy Sherick	Jane Woosogh	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Marge Smith	Nancy Sherick
Altar Guild	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Viani Team

September 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 August Proper 16 Morning Prayer	27	28	29	30	31	1 September
2 September Proper 17	3 Labor Day	4	5	6 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	7	8 8am Brotherhood Breakfast
9 September Proper 18 Blessing of the Backpacks All Church Picnic Sunday School Starts Adult Forum starts	10	11 7:15p Vestry	12 11am Bible Study resumes 12pm Holy Eucharist with Healing	13 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry	14	15
16 September Proper 19	17	18	19	20 1pm Book Club	21	22 Daughters of the King Event
23 September Proper 20 11:30am Outreach & Mission Committee Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 September Proper 21	1 October	2	3	4	5	6

Please always check the online calendar for the most up-to-date event information. Go to our website at 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

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PERMIT NO. 14
MOUNT VERNON, VA



Start-Up Sunday ~ September 9
Sunday School ~ Adult Forum ~ Choir
Blessing of the Backpacks ~ Fall Picnic