



St. James' Notes



September 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.

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',

September is a time of fresh starts. Activities that were on summer break start up again, refreshed by a down-time. Students began a new school year, with new classes and new teachers, perhaps even in a new building. Perhaps you will be starting something new; perhaps something new is in the wind, looking to enter your life.

The church is always making a fresh start. We are always listening for God's call, looking to respond to whatever new thing He is calling us to begin. Sometimes the new thing involves doing something completely different; sometimes it simply requires a fresh perspective on what already is shaping our lives.

The promise of the Resurrection is that life always wins. Whenever the patterns of our lives are no longer feeding us, new life awaits through the inbreaking of God's love. The Spirit is always blowing, always bringing new life. In this season of fresh starts, let's adjust our sails to catch the Spirit and follow it where it will take us.

In Christ,
Charles+



Sunday School Starts September 15

It's back to school time, which means that we're gearing up for Sunday school! The first day of Sunday school will be September 15. This is a perfect opportunity to bring neighbors/co-workers/family/friends who have school-age children, including teens. The Sunday school curriculum provides prayers, lessons, crafts, and at times music, and reflects the same Gospel that the adults learn in church, giving families the opportunity to discuss what they *all* learned that day. Casual Church will be on the Sunday before, September 8, which will be another time to open our doors to families seeking a church family. If each of us just asked one neighbor, one co-worker, one friend, even if they said no, just think of all the seeds that could be planted in the hearts and minds of our community. So, your homework assignment, whatever "grade" you may be, is to ask just one family if they would like to become part of our church family. God will take it from there! If you feel the urge to help with Sunday school or Casual Church, we could always use the help - please contact Diana Courtney. Looking forward to all that God has in store this year for the families and community of St. James'.



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

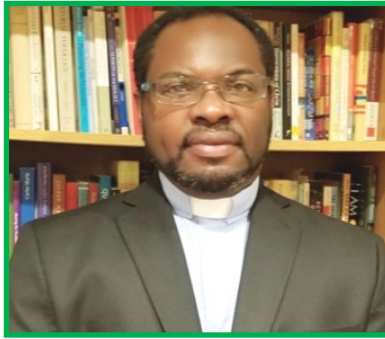
Mike Morgan
Treasurer

Susan Clark
Register

Trustees

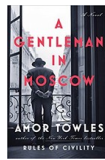
Peg Iber
Lib Mueller
Ray Smith

Welcome to our new Seminarian

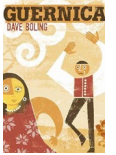


We are excited to welcome the Rev. Pedro Cuevas as our Seminarian during the 2019-20 academic year. Father Pedro is originally from the Dominican Republic, and has a law degree as well as specialties in human rights, criminal litigation, and cultural development. He was ordained as a priest in 2014 after completing his theological formation in Mexico. Before coming to the Virginia Seminary to earn his Master of Divinity, Father Pedro served for three years as Associate Rector in an Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Father Pedro looks forward to his experience at St. James'. He comes "with an open-heart and eager to discover and learn new experiences that will influence and strengthen my priestly ministry in the United States." His first Sunday at St. James' will be on September 8.

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, September 12 to discuss our summer book [A Gentleman In Moscow](#) by Amor Towles. In October we are reading [Guernica](#) by Dave Boling and will meet Thursday, October 18.



Prayers

Happy Birthday

- 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

Sean & Francesca Wallace
September 24, 2005



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 or call (703) 780-3081. Thanks!

From the Jr. Warden

Seems like many of the lessons in life I learn from my kids. God does a good job of showing me how my actions are like that of a child, since no matter how old I am, I will always be His child. So often His greatest lessons come on just plain old routine days in my life. This lesson happened to come on a regular old Wednesday evening. I was watching my then one-year old daughter eat. Now I'm sure most of you know how a one-year old eats: every square inch of themselves, the table, the floor, their hair, clothing, and sometimes even the wall 8 feet away are covered with food. They seem to discover every nook and cranny of their body during mealtime and then find a way to get food into it. They use both hands to shovel the new tastes and experiences into their mouths. They experience the food to the fullest without regard to manners or etiquette or hygiene. Why aren't we like that with the Bread of Life? Why aren't we less reserved when it comes to taking all of Jesus in? Why do we only take in small bites on Sunday, and then not feed ourselves the rest of the week? Every meal for a young one is messy; it doesn't depend on what he or she is eating. How we feed ourselves with Jesus should be just the same.



As we start a new year of youth and adult education at St. James, my challenge to you is to get messy. Smear God's presence all over you. Get it into every nook and cranny. Don't go the proper route; no dabbing the corners of the mouth; no bird-size bites of His Word. Experience every sensation that His Word and Spirit will bring to you. Strive to experience the bread of life the way that children experience their meals. After all, we are, and will always be, His children.

Jesus said to them,

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst". John 6:35

Diana Courtney

Bulletin Board

Theology on Tap

Tuesday, September 17, at 6pm at Kimchi House, 8537 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. Theology on Tap is a comfortable space for us to talk about faith, religion, modern Christianity, and ask questions while enjoying a beverage and maybe dinner. We meeting from 6pm-8pm, once a month, and all are welcome! If you have any questions please contact Mary Bramley at marybramley@gmail.com or (703) 629-9158.



Yard Sale News

St. James' will hold its next Yard Sale in 2020, probably April. Start saving your items now. Please clean, fix, and label problems as you sort. Please price your items yourself.

STARTING RIGHT AWAY, we will sell more valuable items (\$20 +) on eBay and Craig's List. Bring these items to church anytime. Include any information (dates, history, pattern, origin, etc.). This increases interest and value. Contact Marghe (marghe.bowker@gmail.com, 703-799-1567), or the church office with questions.

Racial Reconciliation Workshop

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Anti-Racism Workshop. This Region wide event is scheduled for Friday evening, October 4, and Saturday, October 5, locally at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. If you have any questions about the event, please let Father Charles know.



From the Earth Day Committee

You can now drop off your glass recycling locally in the Purple Bin in the parking lot of the Mount Vernon District Government Center. All colors of emptied glass are acceptable. 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon 22306. Because of breakage when collected, glass in curbside bins ends in landfills, so please recycle your glass in the purple bins.



Shrine Mont in Review

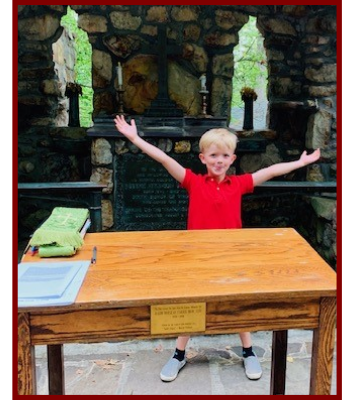
We had a fantastic time at our annual church retreat in beautiful Orkney Spring at Shrine Mont from July 5-7! With 27 people attending, our weekend was spent in faith, fellowship, and self-reflection. The theme was Renewal, led by our own Father Charles. We had several engrossing discussions on short, long, individual, and object Renewal.

Both Friday and Saturday evenings we enjoyed each other's company and Compline on the porch. Saturday evening included a bonfire and some delicious s'mores. We had tons of free time for hiking, tennis, swimming, reading, browsing the bookstore, napping, or countless other activities. And, I cannot forget to mention the six mouthwatering meals of comfort food including pork barbecue and fried chicken.

The weekend coincided with the Shrine Mont Celebration Weekend and we could attend any of those additional activities, including a 5K, picnic, and concert.

To close our weekend of renewal, we celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the open-air Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration. Joined by other retreaters, we had a full worship service singing some of our favorite hymns.

Save the date for next year's retreat: July 3-5 2020. Yup, that includes July 4th! I am looking forward to seeing you there!



Mission and Outreach

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 US Church uses the donations to jump-start innovative outreach, and problem-solving programs. Our UTO 2019 offerings will be collected on All Saints' Day in early November.



The sunflowers are taller than Father Charles! We planted our seeds in the spring just as we began to offer our coins and remember our blessings in our UTO boxes. They both have grown all summer! Come and See.

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 23. 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."



Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

The choir is such an important part of our Sunday morning worship. Their voices lead us all in song, our musical offering to God. We are all grateful for those who are committed to this musical ministry. I am delighted that they will be back in the choir loft this month!



In addition to the folks who are currently singing in the choir, I know that there are potential choir members sitting in the congregation each Sunday morning. I can hear you, and your neighbors whisper, "don't Mortimer and Matilda have lovely voices?" A question I would ask each of you to consider is, "What needs to happen to make it comfortable and possible for me join the St. James' choir?"

- Is it a different rehearsal schedule? (Right now we rehearse on Wednesday evenings and before church on Sunday. Would a different night, or perhaps just Sundays, work for you?)
- Is it a need to commit to only a few Sundays at a time, or every other Sunday, or something of that sort? (Ask Mike Morgan, who has helped out for special services and for Advent/Christmas.)
- Are you worried that it's been a long time since you sang regularly, or that reading music isn't the long suit in your hand? (Being a professional singer isn't required.)
- Something else? Let's talk!

Please don't let any of these be an obstacle to being part of St. James' choir! I believe that there are solutions to any of these - just ask. Please talk to me at coffee hour, or some other convenient time.

The bottom line is, **WE NEED YOU IN THE CHOIR, AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!** Start with a commitment for a few weeks (for example, until Thanksgiving, or for the Advent and Christmas seasons.)

And for those of you with other musical talents - please let me know how much you would like to participate. Every week? Once a month? We would love to have you share your talent.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 95, "Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms."

Soli Deo Gloria!
Alan Moser



NEWS FROM YOUR TREASURER

There are two small donation opportunities that I would like to talk about.

1) The Virginia Episcopalian Magazine

The Diocese of Virginia, the largest Episcopal diocese in the US, mails out 4 issues of their magazine, *VA Episcopalian*, to all members of its 182 churches. Articles range from what's happening in our smallest rural churches to important matters and positions of our Diocese and our greater National Church. The asking for receipt of the magazine is a modest \$5 per year. Donation envelopes are included in your church envelopes. Please consider donating \$5 dollars to help offset St. James' budget payment to the Diocese. Checks can be made out to St. James', with *VA Episcopalian* written in the memo line.

2) Rector Discretionary Fund

This fund, not really ever advertised, allows our Father Charles to help others in need, or at times to help offset our Outreach projects. It is not a budgeted line item in our planning, but like Outreach, it used to be. Please kindly consider a financial gift in this area to help Father Charles help others. Checks can be made out to St. James', with *Discretionary Fund* written in the memo line.

Schedule of Ministry ~ September 1 to October 6

| | September 1 | September 8 | September 15 | September 22 | September 29 | October 6 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Pentecost 12 | Pentecost 13 | Pentecost 14 | Pentecost 15 | Pentecost 16 | Pentecost 17 |
| | Labor Day | Casual Church | | | | Casual Church |
| Celebrant | The Rev. Charles Brock Preacher: Mary Bramley | The Rev. Charles Brock | The Rev. Charles Brock | The Rev. Charles Brock | The Rev. Charles Brock | The Rev. Charles Brock |
| Vestry Person | Ben Justesen | Chris Marbaker | Mary Jane Van den Berg | McKayla Braden | Diana Courtney | James Eustis |
| Ushers | Bob Blair Mike Morgan | Mark Braden McKayla Braden | Wayne Johnson Ray Smith | Lewis Clark Susan Clark | Mike Morgan Chad Duffield | Bob Blair Mary Blair |
| | 8:00am | 8:00am | 8:00am | 8:00am | 8:00am | 8:00am |
| Chalice | Ray Bonniwell | The Rev. Pedro Cuevas | David Batcheller | The Rev. Pedro Cuevas | Ray Bonniwell | David Batcheller |
| Lesson 1 | Stan Dawson | David Batcheller | TBD | Tim Myers | Janet Fallin | Agnes Chapman |
| Lesson 2 | Janet Fallin | Agnes Chapman | Janet Fallin | Andy Wormser | Stan Dawson | Ray Bonniwell |
| Prayers | Ray Bonniwell | The Rev. Pedro Cuevas | David Batcheller | The Rev. Pedro Cuevas | Ray Bonniwell | David Batcheller |
| | 10:00am | 10:00am | 10:00am | 10:00am | 10:00am | 10:00am |
| Sunday School | No Sunday School | Casual Church | Heidi Brock | Katie Eustis | Diana Courtney | Casual Church |
| | 10:15am | 10:15am | 10:15am | 10:15am | 10:15am | 10:15am |
| Chalice | Mary Blair | The Rev. Pedro Cuevas | Mary Bramley | Marghe Bowker | Bob Fitz | Bill Iber |
| Lesson 1 | Mike Morgan | | Cheryl Nostrand | Sara Thompson | Marghe Bowker | |
| Psalm | Bob Blair | | Ryan Duffield | Ally Duffield | Mike Morgan | |
| Lesson 2 | Cheryl Nostrand | | James Eustis | Ben Justesen | McKayla Braden | |
| Prayers | Nancy Sherick | | Bob Fitz | Suzanne Synnestvedt | Mark Braden | |
| Sacraments | Heidi Brock Diana Courtney | Peg Iber Ellen Cleary | Lewis Clark Susan Clark | Duffield Family | Kevin Diana Chris Marbaker | Laurie doCarmo Anne Patrick |
| Acolyte | Ben Justesen | | Ally Duffield | Ryan Duffield | Ally Duffield | |
| Organist | Alan Moser | Alan Moser | Alan Moser | Alan Moser | Alan Moser | Alan Moser |
| Counter | Nancy Sherick | Jane Wosoogh | Wayne Johnson | Marge Smith | Marge Smith | Nancy Sherick |
| Altar Guild | Viani Team | Viani Team | Viani Tram | Viani Team | Viani Team | Iber Team |

September 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 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1 September Proper 17 | 2 Labor Day | 3 | 4 | 5 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry | 6 | 7 |
| 8 September Proper 18 Casual Church Blessing of the Backpacks All Church Picnic | 9 | 10 7:15p Vestry | 11 11am Bible Study resumes 12pm Holy Eucharist with Healing | 12 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry 1:00 Book Club | 13 | 14 8am Brotherhood Breakfast |
| 15 September Proper 19 Sunday School Starts | 16 | 17 6p Theology on Tap | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 September Proper 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 September Proper 21 | 30 | 1 October | 2 | 3 10:30a Rising Hope Lunch Ministry | 4 | 5 |

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 8

Casual Church
Blessing of the
Backpacks
Fall Picnic



Our Shrine Mont Retreat



Read all about our Shrine Mont Retreat on page 4. And mark your calendars now to save the date for next summer, July 3 to 5, 2020. Let's enjoy July 4 at Shrine Mont!