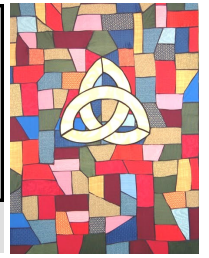




# St. James' Notes



June, July & August 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',

The church doors opened. The organ music swelled. The people stood and raised their voices in song. Triumphant alleluias poured out, as we began to sing the great Easter hymn, "The strife is o'er."

Our first service in-person together, after fourteen months apart, was a celebration of faith and resurrection. St. James' never stopped being the church, and we never stopped worshipping, and we never stopped being the Body of Christ. But our Christianity is an incarnate faith, embodied in our relationships and our actions. It is hard to sustain that kind of faith while separated from one another. We did it... but oh, how good it is to be once again in the presence of one another, and to see Christ in our gathering.

Our first service together was on the first Sunday after Pentecost, the first Sunday of the long season sometimes known as Ordinary Time. During the six months between Advent and Pentecost, the church remembers and celebrates the key events in the life of Jesus. During the the other six months, we remember the teachings, healings, and miracles that made up the "ordinary" days of Jesus' extraordinary life. And so Ordinary Time reminds us that our own "ordinary" days are lived in the light of God's Truth and Jesus' Resurrection... there is nothing ordinary about them!

As St. James' begins to resume its accustomed patterns, we bring new appreciation and gratitude for what we previously took for granted. Being together as a community is a gift from God... let us rejoice and be glad in it!

In Christ,  
Charles+



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# 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

## Please Sign Up

### Sunday Flowers

There is a new sign-up poster for Sunday flowers in the gallery. Please ask Peg Iber if you have any questions.

### Coffee Helpers

There is a new coffee helper sign-up list in the gallery. Please sign up and ask James Eustis if you have any questions.

### Assisting in Worship

The Lay Ministry Chart for Availability is posted in the Gallery. Please take the time to mark your availability to assist Marge in scheduling those assisting in worship. If you would like to be added to the list, please see Marge, we could always use more voices.

## Fill the Red Wagon

Fill the Red Wagon with Food for the Hungry. 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 will be delivered each week to Rising Hope Mission Church to support their ministry to the homeless and hungry along the Route 1 corridor.



## Yard & Bake Sale October 2

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Virtual Yard Sale. Your flexibility and patience have paid off. Finally, we are ready to consider an in person Yard & Bake Sale for this fall., Saturday, October 2. Please continue to set aside items you think would sell. Clean and price them yourself. As the sale gets closer we will need lots of volunteers, so watch for opportunities to support this church fundraiser. As always, if you have questions contact Marghe Bowker (703) 799-1567 [marghebowker@gmail.com](mailto:marghebowker@gmail.com) or the church office.



## From the Junior Warden



As I write this, it is a bright, hot summery day. A beautiful day to walk the dog, grill on the patio and celebrate the coming of the summer season! More than the coming of spring this year, it feels like God is bringing us a renewed season of hope and life. He has allowed us to resume our in-person worship and the gifts that come from gathering together and renewing our face-to-face interactions. The Ghanaian church that shares our space has also come back to worship at St. James'. Our community has been strong throughout the pandemic and it's such a blessing to see it so alive on the grounds of St. James' and in the sanctuary, though I'm still getting used to the "waving of the Peace" instead of the traditions we are all so accustomed to.

I am looking forward to our community resuming more and more normalcy in the coming months, and God willing, and to share potlucks and picnics again soon.

On behalf of the Vestry, I wish you a blessed and safe summer and hope to see you at St. James' on Sunday.

Best,  
*Andy Wormser*



## Plant & Property

Even though St. James' has been quiet since the pandemic began, we've been busy maintaining our church and grounds. With people back in the building, we hope you have a chance to see the new floor that's been installed from the gallery back to Braxton Hall. It sure is a lot brighter - and no more tripping over the bunched up carpet! The kitchen and hallways are also brighter thanks to some new lights that have been installed, replacing several that had worn out and were no longer illuminating our working spaces. Finally, we have been very pleased with our landscaping service and their work with mowing, mulching and trimming. They're doing a really good job keeping up the beauty of our grounds that we've worked so hard to restore.



We are continuing to focus on ensuring that our physical spaces and our natural ones remain beautiful and welcoming to all in our community.

Best,  
*Andy Wormser*

# Prayers

*Happy  
Birthday*

## June

- 1 Mark Braden
- 7 Laura Riley
- 12 Sarah Morgan
- 15 Antonia Rodriguez
- 20 Mike Viani
- 25 Jennifer Morgan Boyle
- 27 Cheryl Viani

## July

- 1 Crystal Prigmore
- 6 Jackson Collins
- 6 Jed Smith
- 8 Keith Riley
- 9 Bob Blair
- 10 Vicki Iber
- 14 Debby McConnell
- 16 Suzanne Synnestvedt
- 18 Owen Eustis
- 21 Nancy McDougall
- 31 Anne Smith
- 31 Charles Brock

## August

- 1 Katie Eustis
- 6 Marge Smith
- 7 Rosemarie Richard
- 13 Lib Mueller
- 14 Jane Fitz
- 14 Heidi Brock
- 16 Kimberly Stowell
- 16 Janet Morgan
- 22 Bob Fitz
- 23 Jane Wosoogh
- 27 John Thompson

HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

June 7, 2008  
Doug & Amy Smith

June 12, 1999  
Dean & Nancy Sherick

July 3, 1998  
Chris & Naomi Iber

August 7, 2004  
Bob & Jane Fitz

August 10, 2002  
Aaron & Kimberly Stowell

August 24, 1974  
Mike & Valerie Morgan

August 27, 1977  
Mark & Mckayla Braden

August 31, 1985  
John & Sara Thompson



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, Fred, Karla, Pat, Elias, Michael & Denise, Jamie & Nancy, Renée, Anne, and Arthur.



## Online Giving is Convenient!

We welcome your on-line donations through a button on the church's web home page: [www.stjamesmv.org](http://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'.



# Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

*"I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread"*



For days now, I have been pondering how several seemingly random encounters or thoughts might be woven together to write this set of Music Notes. As it turned out, maybe they weren't so random; I just had to reflect to understand how each relates to the others.

Here's the story. For our first Sunday back together in person for worship, I wanted to express musically the joy that I felt. One way to do that was in the choice of the postlude: *Toccata* from the Fifth Organ Symphony by Charles-Marie Widor. Soon after that, I was scrolling through a favorite website, which provides listings and links to services of Evensong and Compline in the UK and Ireland. I explored a listing for St. David's Cathedral in Wales and heard the hymn, "Alleluia, sing to Jesus," sung to the Welsh tune, HYFRYDOL. This is a tune we often sing, and in fact will have just sung June 13 as "Love divine, all loves excelling."

When I was practicing and finalizing future prelude, offertory, and postlude selections, I reviewed the scripture readings along with resources that suggest music for each Sunday. One suggestion was the hymn, "For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God." The setting is EAST ACKLAM, by retired organist and director of music at the York Minster, Francis Jackson. That led me to a piece composed in honor of his ninetieth birthday (he is now 103!) In addition to his compositions, Dr. Jackson is noted for having inspired the use of the Widor *Toccata* (the same one mentioned above) as a concluding voluntary for weddings. And with that, we have come full circle.

So what is it that I see in these random encounters that inspires me to write about them? It is that they bespeak the great community and closeness in which we move in the church – like in the verse from "I come with joy to meet my Lord" with which I opened this note – and which, oddly enough, we recently sang. Put another way, in a verse from Rev. Fred Pratt Green's hymn, "When in our music God is glorified:"

*"So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue, Alleluia!"*

May we continue to unite with Christians far and wide to sing together and to be inspired by random, or not-so-random, musings to offer our praise to God.

Soli Deo Gloria! Alan Moser

# Parish Activities

It's been a pleasure starting summer with the resumption of our in-person worship. As conducive as Zoom is to people watching, nothing is better than looking around the pews and seeing familiar smiling faces. I'm also reminded of those faces missing from the pews which we won't have the pleasure of smiling back at, and of those we hope to see again soon.



While we do not expect to hold our traditional summer parish picnic this month we are looking forward to resuming them in September, and am excited about that. As we plan to make more use of our outdoor spaces (thanks again to everyone who has kept them looking so nice), including our coffee hour, we are taking steps to ensure everyone's comfort and enjoyment. I'd like to ask anyone interested in signing-up to support Coffee Hour to please do so on the sign-up sheet in the gallery; as we are not yet including food my appeal is to bring any of your favorite chilled beverages, especially during the hotter weekends.

I'm looking forward to a "normal" summer – meaning high humidity and pool outings – and being together in the flesh as one Parish Family. See you at church!

Best, James Eustis

## Flags of St. James'

Have you ever wondered why there are so many flags displayed in St. James' Church? Have you ever heard St. James' referred to as Fort St. James?

First, let me explain the fort nickname. The many flags could be the reason for that nickname. Or, because of the location right outside a gate into Ft. Belvoir, we have had a "military" connection. Many families who have lived on the Post have been part of St. James'. This is also the same for many families in the neighborhood. St. James' welcoming sense has made it good for folks who may be in the area for a short while to decide to be here. There is an occasional military uniform seen in the congregation. And, we do still sing patriotic hymns for patriotic occasions!



Then, to the flags that are on display. The flags are not military. There are two classifications for the flags. These are Church and State. The church flag, seen by the organ, is the symbol for The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. In the back of the church on the organ side are other representations of folks who at one time called St. James' home. There is a flag of the Vatican; two Roman Catholic seminarians studying at Virginia Theological Seminar did their parish work here and donated the flag. A German seminarian gave the flag of her home parish. And we have the flag of the Diocese of Virginia.

The state flags are first represented by our national flag displayed by the hymn board. The state and national flags displayed in the back of the church were given by members of the church who wanted their homeland represented. Many of these were carried in the procession on special Sundays. The first to be mentioned is the state flag of Virginia. We have always had a very international congregation. Australia, Great Britain, Mexico and Germany flags are in the stand at the back.

Feel free to examine the flags and ask questions. Our flags are very much a part of our church's history!

*Peg Iber*

## Mission & Outreach

I hope your summer is going to be lovely. We are spending quite a bit of time in our Delaware home. As I write this I am looking at the bay which is full to the brim with water at high tide. It poured here last night and I was so afraid for our osprey and herons that were hunkered down in their nests. (I was told not to worry, that the birds know better than we do how to survive the tough weather! They were so right! This morning I heard them talking up a storm in their nests with the joys of the sunny morning.) We are so fortunate to have so much. I thank the Lord daily for his gifts of nature.



For those that are not as fortunate - our neighbors and friends in the Alexandria/Mt Vernon area- I ask you to consider supporting Rising Hope in June. July starts new quarter for Mission and Outreach. We are supporting "Rise Against Hunger" in the next quarter. Your donations will allow us to support this very worthy cause, a tradition at St. James'. We hope to work together the Saturday before Thanksgiving to assemble the food packages. Because of Covid, we did not have this event last fall, so our 2021 event will be especially meaningful.

We also plan to give back packs to the children of United Community (UC). In August, if you find it in your heart to fill a back pack with school supplies and snacks, I will deliver it to UC. More to follow on this in July.

Thanks for all your donations. I appreciate your support.

*Mckayla Braden*



# Update on the Rectory

St. James' has on its property a Rectory, which is a home available for a priest and family. If the Rectory is not used by the priest, then the Rectory is an asset to be used for the good of the church.

For the past nine years, St. James' has been fortunate to rent the Rectory to Ben & Margaret Justesen. The Justesen's recently announced their plans to move to Florida this summer, and the Vestry has been considering options for the Rectory, including whether to continue renting or to sell it.

The Rectory has appreciated greatly in value while providing rental income (\$30,000/yr), and it has an estimated value of \$575,000.

As a rental property the Rectory would continue to appreciate in value (hopefully!) while generating rental income of perhaps \$36,000/yr. Rental expenses include a Property Manager, property taxes, and maintenance.

If the Rectory were to be sold, the proceeds could significantly reduce the church mortgage and associated monthly payments. The mortgage balance currently stands at about \$880,000, and St. James' budgets about \$94,000/yr towards mortgage payments—nearly a third of our budget. Paying down the mortgage could help prepare us for upcoming financial challenges, as we anticipate replacing the aging HVAC system, repaving the driveway, and renewing the older portion of the church roof.

The sale of the Rectory is not something that the Vestry takes lightly, nor is it something that needs to be decided quickly. The process for the County to survey and approve a separate property lot is lengthy and expensive. If the Vestry decided to recommend the sale of the Rectory, then there would be additional meetings to inform the congregation and to answer questions, followed by putting the decision to a congregational vote. Recognizing the long time-frame and the many unanswered questions, the Vestry has decided to rent the Rectory, while continuing to gather information about the pro's, the con's, and the process of selling.

The Rectory suffered significant damage recently when a tree fell on its roof. Fortunately, insurance is covering the cost of fully replacing the roof for \$35,500, less a \$1000 deductible. The Vestry has also consulted several realtors about what would be required to prepare the Rectory either to rent or sell; the realtors estimate \$20,000. In addition, the wooden deck must be replaced, with estimates up to \$13,000. Accordingly, the Vestry has approved the spending of up to \$35,000 from unrestricted funds to prepare the Rectory to rent.

We welcome your questions and concerns! Please bring them to Chris Marbaker (Sr. Warden) or Fr. Charles.





**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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## **Food Trucks are Coming!**

Hello St. James' family. This summer we have an exciting new fundraiser that I am sure everybody is going to want to take part in. We are bringing FOOD TRUCKS to St. James! We are planning to invite 3 food trucks every Friday evening to set up in our parking lot. That's one less meal to grocery shop for and another opportunity to mingle with your church family and our neighbors from the surrounding communities. Who knows, people who come by on Friday may come back on Sunday! We'll be spreading the word on Facebook and NextDoor and the trucks will be doing some of their own advertising so we hope to have a great turn out each week.

We are finalizing the permits and starting outreach to schedule the trucks now, so if there is a food truck that you love, feel free to put them in touch with me so we can get them on the schedule. And watch your email to know when St. James' Friday Food Trucks begins!

*Chad Duffield*

