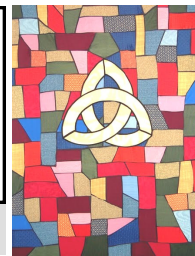




# St. James' Notes

September 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 pandemic has upended many of our traditional activities and practices, in our personal lives and at the church. We've all experienced frustration and loss. With the rise of the coronavirus variants, it continues to impact us.

This time has also been a time of adaptation and creativity. We've learned to communicate with Zoom and FaceTime, to stream our movies and to join online exercise classes. We've taken up new hobbies. We've spent more time outdoors, walking and visiting friends in safe settings.

We have been innovating and adapting in the church. We learned to do Zoom worship and on-line Bible study; we adopted new technologies for communicating with the church. We've increased our presence on social media, and learned how to livestream our worship on Facebook.

I'm excited by something we'll be trying this fall for children's faith formation. Instead of a separate children's Sunday school, they will stay with their families, and we will invite them to draw and color about their experience of God and Jesus. After church, the children and their parents will have an opportunity to spend a few minutes with me, to share and explain their drawings. Our intent is to help the children grow in their ability to recognize "sightings of the Spirit" and to see God's presence in the world about them... and that is something to which we all aspire.

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

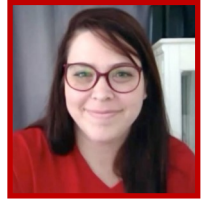
Susan Clark  
Register

## Trustees

Peg Iber  
Lib Mueller  
Ray Smith

## Evangelism & Publicity

And, with that, the summer has now ended. The pause in having meetings and advising was nice, but I am getting ready for another busy fall. Activities are also picking up at St. James' too! Wednesday Bible Study will be coming back, Sunday School, and other events are planned for the coming months. This is a great time to start inviting friends and neighbors to join us in person or on Facebook Live.



One thing you can start doing today is liking and sharing posts on Facebook and NextDoor! Many times, I will get an email that says someone didn't see something posted on one of the sites and that might be because posts with more likes, shares, and comments pop up to the top of the newsfeed. If you look me up on NextDoor, you will find my posts for you to like or make a comment. It is also really easy to share a post from your phone or computer. If you have any questions about how to use NextDoor or Facebook, don't hesitate to ask. I have my phone and laptop with me every Sunday and can do a live demo for you.

Also, don't be afraid to make your own post! And tag St. James' when you do! Just let me know and I can send you a photo or some suggested wording to help you out.

Here is how you can help me out with social media for fall- What is one thing you are looking forward to happening this fall, or, what is one of your favorite memories from St. James'? Send me your answers and a photo or video would be great!

Mary Bramley

## Altar Guild News

St. James' Altar Guild offers its' members several forms of service. This service is unique. The duties are personal, no monthly group meetings, choose one's own time, but with instruction and practice. The Altar Guild has five teams. The first two teams take turns preparing the altar for worship services. These teams are led by Cheryl Viani and Peg Iber. The Decor Team meets twice a year to decide how to decorate for Christmas and Easter. The Linen Team is definitely personal. Members rotate each month to care for the linens used in worship. The Brass Team keeps the utensils used in the services clean and shiny. David Batcheller has been doing Brass Team alone for months! He would like some relief! Please volunteer! St. James' Altar Guild welcomes all. Volunteers are needed on every team! Please join us. Contact Peg Iber at (703)569-5845 or [wriber@verizon.net](mailto:wriber@verizon.net) if you can help.



## From the Senior Warden

We are now at the beginning of September; schools are back in session and back to their regular schedules for now, and soon the leaves will begin to change colors, and fall will be upon us sooner rather than later. Over the summer, we had our standard vestry meetings, which included discussions of the Rectory Committee. The congregation will have an opportunity to review the work of the committee in the coming months. Currently, the rectory roof is being replaced and will be finished soon. In this newsletter issue, you will read up on the Yard Sale and the Annual Parish Picnic. There will be specific guidelines to follow for each of those events due to the ongoing pandemic. We are excited to offer some sense of normalcy as we begin to provide some of our regular events with some restrictions to ensure the safety of all who would like to attend these events. If you have any suggestions or concerns for the vestry, feel free to talk to one of us when you see us or send me an email.



*Chris Marbaker*

## Yard & Bake Sale ~ Saturday, October 2



Finally, we are ready to consider our in-person yard sale, set for Saturday, October 2, from 8am to 1pm. Please continue to set aside items you think would sell. **Clean, Test, and Price them yourself.** We'll set up tables in the gallery a week before, Saturday, September 25. Bring your items any time during the week, and put them on appropriate tables. We'll have times when helpers will be available. Remember, masking is required any time in the building. Outside, masking is optional.

We'll need lots of volunteers before, during, and after the yard sale. A sign-up sheet will be in the gallery. This is our major fundraiser for the year, and the budget is balanced with our success in mind. We need all of you. Watch for more information about a bake sale, too.

Contact Marghe Bowker, [marghe.bowker@gmail.com](mailto:marghe.bowker@gmail.com) 270-779-6114, or the church office 703-780-3081 if you have questions.

## Plant & Property

It has been delightful to see all of the familiar faces coming back to St. James' with our resumption of in-person worship. With our congregation back together physically, we've been busy making sure our facilities are welcoming. We've done further work on our air conditioning system, ensuring that we don't have to use the church bulletin as a fan during Sunday worship. We're also working to improve the lighting outside St. James'—repairing fixtures—so that our grounds are safe and welcoming. Finally, if you've driven by the rectory, you can see that work is underway to replace the roof, damaged many months ago by a falling tree. In a blessing, our church insurance policy is paying for virtually all of the replacement roof, thanks to good work by our treasurer Mike Morgan. Our landscaping company has been doing a good job keeping our lawns freshly mowed, but be on the lookout for a fall cleanup day where we can do some weeding, perhaps planting on the parking lot islands, and once again come together in fellowship.



*Andy Wormser*



## Mission & Outreach

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to **Rise Against Hunger**, our mission for the third quarter; please give if you have not yet had a chance. There is still plenty of time. We will meet November 20 to assemble food packages to be distributed to the most needy. Our collection of funds to support this project is so important. Our goal is approximately \$3,000. I have not yet worked at one of the assembly events and wondered just what these meals contained. Rise



Against Hunger meals, as explained on their website (and packaged by volunteers), "are designed to provide a comprehensive array of micronutrients. Rise Against Hunger meals include enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and 20 essential vitamins and nutrients." They are distributed to families in need all around the world. I also read that the organization receives top ratings for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability. This is exactly why St. James' has supported this organization for so many years. Please give if you have not; please plan to come to our November 20 event. Thanks for all you do.



Our St. James' community continues to support Rising Hope, and our neighbors in need. Thanks for your ongoing contributions of food items and other necessities each Sunday in our red wagon. Thanks to our good Samaritans for continuing to deliver them to Rising Hope; and thanks for your cash donations through St. James' for this outreach effort.

I would personally like to thank Father Charles and Mary Bramley for their diligent efforts to provide an online option to our Sunday worship service. Mark and I have been the beneficiary to this weekly effort and have so enjoyed worshiping with everyone through Face Book on Sundays from afar.

Looking forward to the Fall and holiday season. Please share our good news with your neighbors and friends. Thanks for your friendship and support of our outreach efforts.

*McKayla Braden*

## Welcome back to Christian Education

As we begin a new school year, the St. James' community also looks forward to a new year of Sunday curriculum, especially for our children. Starting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll be taking a different approach to our traditional Children's Church, inviting all of our children to participate in worship service with the rest of the congregation. We'll provide packets full of fun activities, Bible lessons, and craft activities. Each child can pick up a packet before the service begins, and experience the joys of coming together as a congregation for worship. Following church services, Father Charles invites each child to meet with him to talk about anything they noticed or learned, and to share their own "Sightings of the Spirit" they may have experienced throughout the week.



We are very excited to welcome all of our children and have them participate in what is sure to be a fun, inclusive, and loving experience to help them grow in their knowledge and love of Christ at St. James'. We'll begin our new Welcome back!

*Mary Lowe*



# Choir Notes

Dear St. James' friends,

## **LEADERS ~~WANTED~~-NEEDED!**

Musical experience helpful, but not necessary.



One of my favorite movies is "Auntie Mame." It always leaves me feeling better for having watched it. Various scenes in the movie deal with the ups and downs of life and the ups almost always are victorious over the downs.

I had been looking forward to an "up" moment with the projected start of choir rehearsals early in September and the return of the choir to Sunday worship after our "Covid hiatus." Regrettably, the rollercoaster made a quick dip, and now congregational and choral singing are on hold once more.

Soon, however, the "up" will come as we overcome the limitations placed on us as a result of the current pandemic, and there will be an active choir helping lead St. James' in worship. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements of our new start-up date. When we do start, the stalwarts who have been restlessly awaiting the resumption of rehearsals could use your support. Please consider being a part of the choir or sharing your talents during worship as a soloist. We would love to have you join in the ministry of music at St. James'.

**Can't do it right now? Please consider, "What does need to happen to make it comfortable and possible for me join the St. James' choir?"**

- 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?)
- 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 a St. James' musician! Please talk to me at coffee hour, or some other convenient time. The bottom line is: **WE WANT AND NEED YOU IN THE CHOIR, AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!**

A friend of mine died recently. Dan never appeared to let his terminal diagnosis get him down. Beyond his strong faith, part of his "upness" seemed to be what might be called his theme song, "My life flows on in endless song, above Earth's lamentation... Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?" I hope there is always a song in your heart, whether Dan's theme, or one from "Auntie Mame," or another, and that you might find it is time to share your song and talent with St. James'.

**HELP NEEDED – and WELCOMED!**

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Alan Moser*

## 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'.



## Prayers

### Happy Birthday

3 Marshall Braden  
7 Andy De La Cour  
14 Naomi Iber  
28 Nancy Mow Sherick



*We pray for strength, guidance, and healing for: Esther, Muriel Sue, Paula, Fred, Karla, Pat, Elias, Michael & Denise, Jamie & Nancy, Renée, Anne, Arthur, Eliot, and Molly.*

## Bulletin Board

*To the St. James' family,*

*The Iber family thanks all of you for the care and concern shown to us at the time of Bill's death. The prayers and help offered have been comforting to us. This experience has been a great sign of what we knew—the St. James' family is a wonderful example of God's love! Because of the covid situation, Bill's funeral was "family only" with burial in the Memorial Garden. A celebration of Bill's life is planned for October 30, in the afternoon, at St. James', a few days before his birthday. Thank you, all.*

*In His Spirit,*

*Peg*

### A Fond Farewell to Pedro



The people of St. James' congratulate the Rev. Pedro Cuevas upon his graduation from the Virginia Theological Seminary, and presented him with a priest's stole and \$1000 to assist as he seeks his next call.

### Welcome Chris, Our new Seminarian



Greetings! My name is Chris Micklewright, and I am a second year student at Virginia Theological Seminary. My family and I hail from the suburbs of Philadelphia, where I previously taught mathematics for 8 years. My wife, Heather, and I have three young boys - Corin, Elias, and Desmond. I look forward to worshipping and serving with you over the coming year!

## Assisting in Worship in September

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
	Pentecost 15	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17	Pentecost 18
<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Tim Myers	Mark Braden	Mike Morgan	Mary Lowe
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Andy Wormser	McKayla Braden	Janet Fallin	David Batcheller
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Suzanne Synnestvedt	James Eustis	Diana Courtney	Marghe Bowker
<b>Ushers</b>	Chad Duffield Ellen Cleary	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Peg Iber Barbara Riley
<b>Organist</b>	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
<b>Vestryperson</b>	Andy Wormser	Mary Bramley	McKayla Braden	Mary Lowe
<b>Counter</b>	Andy Wormser	James Eustis	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team	Viani Team

## Assisting in Worship in October

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
	Pentecost 19	Pentecost 20	St. James Feast Day	Pentecost 22	Pentecost 23
<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock	Bishop Porter Taylor Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock	Rev. Charles Brock
<b>Lesson 1</b>	McKayla Braden	James Eustis	Andy Wormser	Tim Myers	Janet Fallin
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Janet Fallin	Ali Duffield	Diana Courtney	David Batcheller	Andy Wormser
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Mark Braden	Ryan Duffield	Mike Morgan	Marghe Bowker	David Batcheller
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Morgan Ellen Cleary	Chad Duffield Barbara Riley	Wayne Johnson Ray Smith	Mark Braden McKayla Braden	Mike Morgan Ray Smith
<b>Organist</b>	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser	Alan Moser
<b>Vestryperson</b>	James Eustis	Mary Bramley	Chad Duffield	Andy Wormser	McKayla Braden
<b>Counter</b>	Andy Wormser	James Eustis	Wayne Johnson	Marge Smith	Andy Wormser
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team	Iber Team



**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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## **Church Picnic ~ Sunday, September 12**



Join us after worship on Sunday, September 12. St. James' will be providing the hotdogs, hamburgers, and pre-packed sides – no need to bring your own food! (Please let James Eustis know of any special dietary restrictions.)

We'll congregate outside of the church and have tables set-up so we are distanced and safe to enjoy the food and one another's company.

*See you there!*