



The St. James'
Pilgrim
News for the Journey . . .

October, 2017

St. James' Episcopal Church 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854-3340 www.stjamespotomac.org



Message from the Rev. James S. Isaacs

A metaphor for Sunday morning worship

In the previous reflections, I have shared metaphors for the church that I have found helpful. Recently, I have envisioned another metaphor that has started to influence my

thinking about what our Sunday morning worship is or can be. Even though no metaphor is perfect, in this reflection I share a new one; I hope that you will respond by letting me know if it also resonates for you.

During some periods in my life, I have seen Sunday as the first day of the week; other times, I experienced Sunday more like the end of the week. As my life becomes fuller, I am starting to see Sunday as the middle of the week, or rather, a day in the midst of many other days without much of a break. In the context of wondering about the order of days of the week, I have also reflected on some of the worship experiences that I have had that were most meaningful to me.

Some of the most meaningful worship experiences that I can remember have been like a bridge between what has been and what will be. They don't just help me process or celebrate what has happened. They don't just prepare me for what is to come. I manage to bring into those meaningful worship settings what I have been through and am going through and find strength to reengage that same life with renewed purpose and enthusiasm.

So my new Sunday morning worship metaphor is: "half-time in the locker room."

Some great sports movie scenes feature this potentially powerful transformative setting. When

I was playing sports myself, I don't remember all of the half-times in the locker room being that powerful, yet they mostly all had the same elements. It is brief. There is first the gathering of the team. Teammates remarking to each other about their shared experiences sounds like chatter, yet it is true fellowship. They are able to catch their breath some. Then there is focused time reflecting about what has happened with an emphasis on preparing to do better when they will likely face similar situations once they go back out of the locker room. And, hopefully, they are ready to run back onto the field with new or renewed enthusiasm and hope.

Many people do a lot to facilitate the Sunday morning worship. Yet, what is most important is the work that everyone is doing in the context of their lives throughout the week—the work Jesus has given us to do. On Sunday morning, that work hasn't finished; it is waiting for us at the end of the service. So we have this brief pause in our lives. God gathers us together, helps us reflect on what has happened, prepares us to do even better, and sends us back out to do the work which has been given to us to continue to do. To continue the metaphor, maybe the Christian formation classes and outreach activities are like practices. Yet, I have lately been focused on our worship together and thinking about how, in that brief part of our week, we can further incorporate some of the helpful elements of the half-time locker room.

It is a pleasure to serve Christ with you at St. James'. I'm thankful to be on this team with you.

In Christ,
James

Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 22

Children's and Youth Ministries: A Celebration of Children and Youth

For more than 25 years, people of faith across the religious spectrum have been uniting on the third weekend in October for the *National Observance of Children's Sabbath* in shared concern for the problems children and families endure, and shared conviction across each of our nation's great religious traditions that calls us to acts of love and justice—especially for those who are young, impoverished, vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded.



St. James' will be celebrating Children's Sabbath on Sunday, October 22 at the 10:30 a.m. service. At that service, the children of St. James' will serve as greeters and ushers, read our lectionary passages, and lead throughout the service. Children will be singing songs and reading Prayers of the People that they have prepared in Sunday school. Please plan now to join us for a wonderful celebration of Children's Sabbath and the children who are members of our faith community.

As faith communities, we share a commitment to speak up, reach out, and act to ensure every child has a healthy, safe, and moral start in life, and successful passage to adulthood. As Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) recently noted in her remarks on the 2017 Observance of Children's Sabbath, "We know that children don't come in pieces, and that we must work together to ensure that children have the comprehensive support that they need to thrive" (CFD, 2017). In addition to our own children, as members of St. James', we are called to share a loving concern for every child within our parish, school, and community.

For the children and youth within our parish community, St. James' offers Sunday school, Youth Group and other special activities (e.g., Annual Hayride, Halloween FunFest, Youth Mission Trip) throughout the year. We support the spiritual and developmental growth of all children, and also encourage members of all ages to engage with children and youth activities and events because we have a shared belief that faith communities play an important role in positive youth development.

Moreover, research shows that young people involved in a faith community benefit in at least three ways, including: (a) they are more likely to have positive values; (b) they have strong bonds with people of different ages and interests; and (c) they spend less time experimenting with risky behaviors than

those not involved in such a community. To be specific, youth who spend at least one hour a week involved in activities within a faith-based organization are more likely to provide service to others, enjoy youth programs, follow and provide positive peer influence, and exercise restraint when it comes to risky behaviors. Today, about 58 percent of young people (ages 11–18), spend one or more hours a week in activities in a religious institution, according to Search Institute surveys.

St. James' provides a place for spiritual growth and exploration *so that* our children and youth grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Sarah Hnatov, Junior Warden



New Curriculum at Sunday School



First Day of Sunday School, September, 2017

We are starting with a brand new curriculum this year in the St. James' Episcopal Church Sunday School. Thanks to the Virginia Theological Seminary, we have upgraded our curriculum to mirror the highly praised Episcopal Children's Curriculum. This, combined with our focus on the founding pillars of Christian Education, community building, and service, will make this year our most exciting yet! We now host four different classes ranging from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade with lessons and activities appropriate for each too!

If you would like to learn more about our new curriculum, go to this website:

<https://www.vts.edu/page/center-for-the-ministry-of-teaching/publications/episcopal-childrens-curriculum>

Finally, we would love to have your help. Pray for our children and our program, participate when you can, and volunteer if you're able. We'd love to have you join us.

Aging with Faith and Grace

Next FaithTalk series begins October 15

Join us on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall meeting room for a new four-part series about healthy aging, and how we can care for ourselves and those we love.

Sunday School: Trials and Adventures— God shows us the way!

Fall is here and Sunday school is back in session. Come join us as we start the year at the beginning of the Bible! Younger children will be learning about Creation and the world around us while older children will learn about Jacob or the leaders of God's people after Moses. We have lots of fun games and activities so be sure to come by!

Childcare is offered from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Sunday School is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and we invite all children from age two and a half to fifth graders to come and celebrate with us!

We will continue to provide offering baskets at chapel so please have your children bring small change to participate in giving thanks. Childcare is provided in the undercroft for infants and toddlers. If you would like to contact us, send an email to Marisol Castro or James Lewin-Smith at: SundaySchool@stjamespotomac.org.



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 7, 5:30 p.m.

Bring your leashed or crated pets to the front steps of the church for a special service of blessing and thanksgiving for our pets.

St. James' Fourth Annual Family Hayride and Bonfire



**At Butler's Orchard
Saturday, October 14 at 7:15 p.m.**

Sign up now!

Reserve your spot by signing up at tinyurl.com/STJhayride4.

We will begin with a 40-minute hayride followed by a two-hour bonfire. Please dress warmly and bring lawn chairs or blankets. Due to the late time, we suggest that you eat dinner ahead of time. You are welcome to bring food and camping accessories to cook on the bonfire.

Suggested donation: \$10 per person (includes hayride, bonfire, Butler apple). Make checks payable to St. James' Episcopal Church with "Hayride/Bonfire" in the memo line.

Time and Location: Please arrive at the Butler's Orchard Farm Market no later than 7:00 p.m. For safety, children should remain in the vehicle until we're invited to caravan up to our group spot. It will be dark! Promptly at 7:15 we will board our wagons and the hayride will begin. Don't be late!

Butler's Orchard is at 22222 Davis Mill Rd, Germantown, MD 20876.

*We hope you and your family can join us.
Questions? Contact Lindsey Harris by email at fierydamsel@yahoo.com.*



Word from the Vestry (with apologies to *The Princess Bride*)



From our Senior Warden, Barry Thompson

Your St. James' Vestry met for its monthly meeting on September 19, 2017. Among the items addressed, about which the members of the congregation should, and will want to, know, are the following:

The Treasurer reported that we still are running a deficit of approximately \$30,000 year to date, less than the projected budget deficit but still of significance.

\$3,300 in donations to Episcopal Relief and Development, specified for hurricane relief, has been received.

Our Stewardship Campaign, which will kick off on Sunday, 29 October, will employ a personalized direct approach, as outlined by Reverends James and Meredith. Details will be announced as the start draws near.

Members of the Vestry and the Clergy already have increased their pledges for 2018 by over \$20,000.

Joyce Nohowel, Administration Commission Chair, was pleased to announce that the Nominations Committee was able to identify outstanding candidates for the three Vestry openings for 2018-2020. Details appear on page 6.

- The fall will be filled with exciting and worthy activities, to include:
- October 7, (Saturday) – Blessing of the Animals – 5:30 p.m. front steps of church
- October 14, (Saturday) – Hayride – 7:15 p.m. at Butler's Orchard, limited spaces available
- October 20, (Friday) – St. James' Children's School Silent Auction – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall
- October 28, (Saturday) – Halloween Funfest – 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the undercroft, church and parish hall
- November, 5 (Sunday) – Newcomers' meeting

A committee of parishioners and parents at the St. James' Children's School will begin meeting to review the SJCS Covenants and Bylaws.

Announced was the completion of the installation of the Interfaith Watershed Restoration and Outreach Project ("Walkway and Garden Project") with Beth Shalom and Talmud Torah Congregation next door.

Infrastructure maintenance issues continue to bedevil us. Assessment of the condition of the Parish Hall ramp and any necessary restoration or repair await appropriate commercial expertise.

N.B. This synopsis of Vestry activities represents a return to a monthly communication to parishioners in the spirit of transparency and common interest. Detailed minutes and budget figures are available for anyone interested.

God is Up to Something in this Place...!

Our 2018 stewardship campaign is coming. Clergy and members of our Vestry will be contacting you to discuss our plans for the year. Prepare to hear about how you can be part of the exciting things God is doing at St. James'!

Annual Meeting and 2018 Vestry Slate

The St. James' Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19, immediately after the 8:00 worship service. Breakfast will be served and we invite all parishioners to attend. Our leadership and committees will provide updates on our many ministries and activities in review, as well as exciting new ideas and programs for 2018.

The 2018 Vestry slate will be presented for vote. The Vestry approved the following slate of members in good standing to be presented and approved:

Offered to run for second term per the St. James' Bylaws:

Sandy Soundararajan
Harley Venton
Sarah Hnatov, *Junior Warden*

Presented for first term:

Dawn Iype
Lori Minasian
Ken Van Valkenburgh

Vestry members continuing in current terms:

Barry Thompson, *Senior Warden*
James Beebe
Carolyn Dick
John Eisold
Lindsey Harris
Holly Mulderig
Joyce Nohowel
Isabelle Schuessler
Bill Wallace
Katherine Weaver
Len Whistler

Diocesan Delegate:

Dan Zimmerman

Alternate Diocesan Delegates:

Pat East
Mary Miers

SJCS Silent Auction and Raffle, Friday, October 20

Every fall St. James' Children's School (SJCS) holds a Silent Auction and Raffle to support the school and new projects for our children. In past years we have raised around \$10,000 and purchased new playground equipment, the classroom iPads, and in 2016 we raised funds for the new outdoor classroom. This year the auction funds will support new dramatic play furniture and science materials for all classrooms.

This year's event is on **Friday, October 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall, and we will have over 100 items donated by area businesses, school and church families. We also have three terrific raffle items including a \$500 Costco Gift Card, a \$500 Great Wolf Lodge certificate and a Great Zucchini children's birthday package.

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship to support our children and the school! Just call or email the school at 301-762-3246 or schoolstjames@comcast.net to RSVP so we can make sure to have enough food for everyone! We will assign each visiting family a bid number to use, then dinner and raffle tickets can be purchased that evening.

Dinner will be \$10 per person. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. The auction sections will close every 15 minutes between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Winning raffle tickets will be picked around 8:00 p.m., and auction items can be purchased and picked up after the raffle or at the school office during the following week. If you cannot make the event but would like to bid on an item or purchase some raffle tickets, please see us upstairs during coffee hour after each service on Sunday, October 15. We will have auction books available to review and raffle tickets available for purchase.

Donations to the event are of course welcome. Please call or email the school if you have something new to place in the auction, and we can arrange for pickup if helpful. Contributions toward the raffle items are also very much appreciated by check to the school.

We look forward to seeing many St. James' families there!

Astrid Crookshank

St. James' Children's School Dine Out Fundraiser

Tuesday, October 10 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Gregorio's in Cabin John. Please mention St. James' when ordering, for dine in or carry out. Proceeds support staff training. We've heard it's the "Best Pizza in Town!"

October 22 Book Club: *The Sympathizer*

This book, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for literature among other awards, was penned by Viet Thanh Nguyen, at present a professor at the University of Southern California in the departments of English and American Studies. Described in various reviews as “a thriller,” it seems so much more than that, with the narrator describing himself as “a man of two minds,” among other self-labels. A double agent, posing as a loyal officer to the army in South Viet Nam, he is actually a communist spying for “the other side.” Loyal to the party, yet a man of caring and with lofty idealism, this man struggles throughout the book in Viet Nam, then in America, giving the reader a look at Viet Nam through the eyes, thoughts, and opinions of the Vietnamese people. This is often an uncomfortable viewpoint for Americans. What decisions seem unbelievably cruel, or compassionate? Which actions are the most thought-provoking to the reader?

Unusual descriptions, creative use of the English language, and sly humor give the book further food for thought. Metaphors can be surprising. There is much for the book club to consider—story development, writing style, and YOUR opinion. Join the group in the parish hall library at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, October 22. The group generally disbands somewhere between 8:00 and 8:45 p.m. at the latest, in time to get ready for Monday. Consider dropping in; there is lively discussion, no official “leader,” and plenty of room and welcome for new members. Eat dinner first or bring it with you, wear your casual clothes, and give it a try. All are welcome!

Bring a Saint to Church on November 5, All Saints’ Day!

For many, when they think of a “saint,” they think of someone who had died, defending their belief in Christ. Scripture tells us, however, that all believers are saints—both those living and those who have moved on to the life to come.

Each year in our celebration of All Saints’ Day, we sing the song, “I sing the song of the saints of God.” In this familiar song we affirm our belief, as in verse 3 we sing,

*“They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will.
You can meet them in school or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops or at tea—
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one, too.”*

We each encounter saints, almost every day of our lives—folks like us who embody Christ’s spirit of love. This All Saints’ Day, on November 5, we are encouraging each of you to bring a saint to church. Help us honor the goodness we encounter every day, by lifting up those who are Christ’s hands in our lives!



Kids at coffee hour: A moment of inventive play. They helped put the chairs away after!

Rummage Sale Thank You

The Fall Rummage Sale at St. James' took place on Friday and Saturday, September 29 and 30. This year's sale brought in close to \$5000 over the two-day period. Members may remember the old couches and blue rug in the meeting room in the parish hall. These items were sold to make space for new furniture donations that are now in place.

The sale would not have been a success without the help of volunteers, some of whom were first-timers. Arranging the parish hall before and after the sale took many hands including teens who earned SSL hours for Montgomery County schools. Some of them met each other for the first time. The same was true for adult volunteers, both experienced and first-timers. New volunteers helped to distribute the workload and gave experienced volunteers a chance to work with new church members of all ages.

The diversity of the customers at the sale varied tremendously making for an inclusive experience for the wider community. This reflects the efforts of St. James' as a church that values outreach beyond its own parish members.



Help Us Put on the Show! There are short shifts for decorating, popcorn, children's activities, being a tour guide through the catacombs, parking attendants, and more! Sign up using the form in the church entrance, or online using the link at <https://stjamespotomac.org/event/halloween-funfest/>.

GHOSTS, WIZARDS, GOBLINS,
SUPERHEROES & PRINCESSES OF ALL AGES

It's time for the Second Annual

Halloween FunFest!

(...it's baaaack...)



Saturday, October 28, 2017

6:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

Come and go as you please...
INDOORS ~ RAIN OR SHINE!

Fear-turing...

Haunted Catacombs! — 6:00 to 8:00

NEW! Trunk or Treat! **NEW!** — 6:00 to 9:00

Costume Parade — 7:00 to 7:15

Spooky Organ Concert! — 7:30 to 7:45

PLUS

Indoor kids' activities

Warm cider • Cold lemonade • Popcorn

SAFE • SECURE • FUN

for all age groups

Regarding costumes:

Please be creative, but exercise discretion.

Admission: \$5 each/\$20 family max.



St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD

Exit 4B off I-270; Turn left on Seven Locks Road

Members of St. James' in JAIL!

Yes, that's true! It all started about 25 years ago when Michael Lash (a former member) worked with the chaplain at the detention center to start a mentoring program for inmates being discharged. A training program was developed and other volunteers, including Pat East, continued this ministry for several years.

In 1992 I started visiting inmates, distributing Bibles, and offering a Christian parenting program for women inmates. Bill and Doris Wallace joined the ministry and were a great blessing, working one day a week. Members of St. James' have generously donated Bibles and Christian materials through the Missions and Outreach budget. Thank you very much for providing Bibles for our sisters and brothers who are incarcerated. Between 2006 and 2013, more than four thousand new Bibles were purchased. Why do they need so many Bibles? There is a lot of turnover, with new people arrested and some coming back.

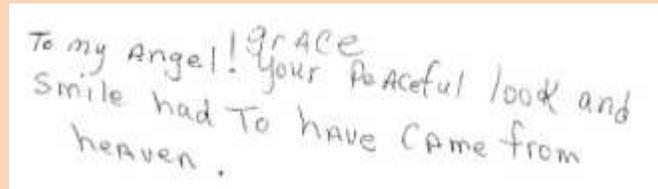
There are two facilities in Montgomery County. People arrested are brought to the detention center on Seven Locks Road in Rockville. Those who do not get out on bond are sent within a few days to the correctional facility in Clarksburg to await trial. I work weekly at the Rockville jail. What do I do? Load a cart, visit inmate units, offer Bibles and Christian materials. The inmates appreciate these visits, are very polite and glad to receive these gifts. I listen to their concerns and offer prayers. Prayer requests are written and passed on to churches. We hear many "thank you's" and "God bless you's".

If you have an interest in volunteering or would like more information, please contact me at 301-251-1624. The opportunities and blessings are very great!

Grace Huff

Letters from Inmates, part 1

I am lost, I have nothing. The only hope I have is through you people because you come here and come here and I know there must be something in what you do... Thank you and my heart go out to you. Your blessings are being stored in heaven. Thank you.



*To my Angel! Grace
your peaceful look and
smile had to have come from
heaven.*

To a Beautiful Lady Named Ms. Grace!

I really thank the Lord for you because, the very first time I saw you the facial expression I remember was peaceful and happy. I went to my cell and asked myself how could this old lady be so happy coming to a jail spending time with people like me. It took years of trouble for me to finally realize that God loves me and used people like you Ms. Grace to let me know.

This is the first time for me to leave this jail with Jesus walking right beside me. I've absorbed so much of God in the little time spent here. I've accepted Jesus before but, never surrendered my life to him. I see Jesus every day, I feel Jesus every day. I know that he is real and it took surrender and obedience to see and feel his presence. Here, Ms. Grace smiled at me and asked me, could I help you. That touched my heart. She sent her son to talk to me every Monday. I asked her for help she said yes. I asked her why she does this work. The name Jesus came up. I asked the preacher of the Jail to talk to me and he spoke of Jesus. Everybody, everywhere said Jesus.

So, I had to find out about Jesus and haven't stopped as of yet. He is so big, he is so famous, he is so rich, he is so poor, he is so little, he is so unknown. He is everything. He never say no, all he say is yes and yes but not right now. He gave me hope, he gave me peace, he gave me life, he gave me direction. He taught me how to love myself so I could love others.

I guess I'm trying to say Ms. Grace you had a hand in my life being changed and I love you and say thank you and hope you enjoy all the blessings you have stored in heaven for you. I'll never forget you.

Letters from Inmates, part 2

A GREAT FAMILY
 To all of you that give your
 time, love, prayers, and patience
 to the people in this facility I
 commend you all. God has a
 plan and purpose for everyone of us
 some to serve, some to teach and some
 to preach, some to smile, some just
 to shine like Gold so the world can
 say he or she has God in their life.
 never think your time and efforts are not
 appreciated. its just sometime it take
 people like me longer to see what
 is happening so, I SAY TO YOU
 ALL THANKS. God Bless

Calendar of Events

- October 7, Saturday:** Blessing of the Animals, St Francis Day Service, 5:30 p.m., church steps
- October 10, Tuesday:** Fundraiser for SJCS at Gregorio's in Cabin John, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- October 14, Saturday:** Hayride and Bonfire at Butler's Orchard, 7:00 p.m.
- October 15, Sunday:** Celebration of Walkway and Garden Project with Beth Sholom, 12:30 p.m.
- October 20, Friday:** St. James' Children's School Auction and Raffle, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., parish hall
- October 22, Sunday:** Book Club discussion of *The Sympathizer*, 6:45 p.m., parish hall library
- October 28, Saturday:** Halloween FunFest! 6:00-10:00 p.m., undercroft and parish hall
- November 5, Sunday:** Bring a Saint to Church! All Saints Sunday, both services
- November 7, Tuesday:** Lunch & Learn with Interfaith Works presentation, 11:30 a.m.
- November 19, Sunday:** Annual Parish Meeting with election, 9:00 a.m., parish hall

Shop with a Purpose!

Support St. James' by shopping online or with gift cards – it costs you nothing extra!

- **Amazon Smile:** Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and search for "St James Episcopal Church Potomac." Choose St. James' as your charity (make sure you pick Potomac, MD!) and log in to your Amazon account as usual. Any eligible purchases you make will automatically earn a donation for St. James'.
- **Purchase Giant Grocery Gift Cards:** St. James' sells Giant grocery gift cards on Sundays in the parish hall, and from the office on weekdays. A \$100 gift card from Giant earns St. James' \$5. Cards are available in smaller denominations too. Purchase some cards for your family shopping or to donate.

Scenes from "Catch the Excitement" Rally Day, September 17



What Is Interfaith Works? Lunch & Learn November 7

The programs of Interfaith Works help some 16,000 people each year living in poverty in one of the most affluent communities in the country. Founded in 1972, this coalition of faith communities focuses on helping our neighbors lift themselves out of the situations in which they find themselves. St. James' has long been one of the 165 diverse faith communities giving support to Interfaith Works. What do we do as a church community to support this effort?

Just what services are offered? Is there any realistic way one could offer help? What are the emergency support programs offered? Come to the Tuesday, November 7, meeting of the Lunch and Learn Group and find out. Reservations can be made with Sarah Padgett for lunch, at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Meeting in the undercroft at 11:30, followed by lunch at noon, the speaker will begin about 12:30, concluding at 1:30.

Samantha Crosby, with Interfaith Works since 2012, is the program speaker. A University of Maryland graduate with a B.S. in Family Science, her main role is case management for the Friends in Action program and the Interfaith Housing Coalition. With IW greatly dependent on a volunteer corps of more than 5,000, this presentation will answer many of the already mentioned questions, in addition to the ones YOU bring. All are welcome, and remember that there is no age restriction and no dress code other than "comfortable."

The following is an update on KBC Learning, a ministry supported by St. James' Missions and Outreach.

KBC Learning Jamaica

School Year 2017-2018 started smoothly despite the fears and concerns brought about by increasing back-to-school expenses and the threats associated with vicious back-to-back hurricanes that seemed bent on destroying the islands of the Caribbean. So far, Jamaica has only experienced periods of heavy rainfall but luckily, none of the devastation visited on neighboring islands.

During School Year 2016-2017, KBC Learning focused on assisting students at the New Providence Primary School and at Mary's Child. At New Providence Primary, KBC started a homework center and offered an after-school literacy program for 20 students ranging in age from 7 to 11 years. At program inception, students who were all chosen by the principal could not read and exhibited serious behavioral problems. With KBC's intervention, which included provision of a snack, each child improved literacy/numeracy performance by at least two grade levels over the period. Additionally, classroom teachers reported significant improvement in student behavior.

Mary's Child is a residential facility operated by the Mustard Seed Community for teenage mothers, varying in age from 11 to 19 years, and who are victims of incest. Teaching literacy and numeracy to 20 girls, whose education has been interrupted, is a challenging undertaking. Many of the girls suffer from psychological issues and educational interruptions due to childbirth, childcare and court appearances that negatively impact schooling. KBC's efforts include the provision of educational software and two trained volunteers who go on-site twice per week. Additionally, KBC is working with others to implement an entrepreneurial and skills training program for the girls. In collaboration with Learn Serve International (a DC-based non profit) and a volunteer from the Peace Corps, KBC established an organic vegetable garden to help meet the nutritional needs of these young people.

Thanks to the support from the St James' family, KBC Learning intends to expand the after-school programs at New Providence Primary and the skills training efforts at Mary's Child.

Shepherd's Table Thank You

"HOMELESSNESS does not take a vacation," and around 200 guests were served—in a clean, spacious and lovely new setting—a warm and appetizing meal. It kept our volunteers busy, efficiently covering both shifts. Setting the stage and dressing the tables was the first shift:

Alice and Jerry Morrison, Len and Kathryn Whistler, Marge Combs, Mary Miers and her sister Madonna and Charlie Padgett. Mary, Madonna, and Charlie stayed over to cover the second shift as well, which also included John and Marge Combs, Pat East, Henrietta Jenkins, Joyce Graf and her son Carl Graf, Linda Ellis, Carolyn Dick, Jo Ann Thompson, and Beverly Bartolomeo. In addition, like a joyous tsunami of help, Janet McUlsky and friend Audrey Phillips brought and served with the most smiley and capable "Volley Ball Team": Salome Mamatsahvili, Leeza McUlsky, Stasia McUlsky, Drew Meadows, Haley Phillips, Gabriella Radice, Dalila Zamudio.

Tom Goodkind and Sampson Annan were kind enough to travel the long drive, only to have to go home because we had too many helpers: thank you for offering to help as well.

Thank you to ALL the terrific Volunteers who allowed us to leave the premises with the feeling of a "job well done"—including the young ladies peeling mountains of carrots! Thank you to ALL et mille MERCI. Our next Shepherd's Table will be at the end of January, 2018. Be well, ALL of you! and again, Mercis!

Claude Williams van Bellinghen

