

The St. James'

Pilgrim

"News for the Journey . . ."

2017 No. 6

11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854-3340

March 23, 2017

www.stjamespotomac.org

Clergy Corner with The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

Not only does God love you, God needs you...

The story is told of a sermon given by John Wesley, brother of Charles Wesley and co-founder of Methodism. A notoriously long-winded preacher, in this particular sermon John had three points. The first two were well-received: to earn all you can, and save all you can. His third point, however, made everyone a little nervous. He told his parishioners that after earning all they could and saving all they could, they were to give all they could.

Maybe you can relate to Wesley's parishioners. You work hard for what you have, and you have been taught that saving for the future is wise planning. And this is right and true. But Wesley's point is a little deeper—and one that we should consider at this time in the life of St. James'—that there is more to giving to God than giving out of the leftovers...We are called to give all that we can.

One of the goals presented to me by your Vestry when I arrived at St. James' was to make stewardship a year-round conversation. Last month, as we reviewed the 2017 budget, your finance committee impressed me by their commitment to support our ministries, and their pledge to reduce our projected budget deficit by spearheading a mini-stewardship campaign.

Their aim is to reduce the deficit so that as we begin our ministry together, we can look ahead to how God is calling—instead of being sidelined by slashing the budgets of those ministries at St. James' where God is already at work. Their commitment was inspiring to me. And although it has been suggested that I "let the committee do the work," we are in this together—and their

optimism and commitment to our shared ministry should inspire you as much as it inspires me.

One of the first questions that came out of this discussion was, "Shouldn't we all tithe?"

I thought today I would engage the topic of stewardship by talking a little about tithing. I think my response will surprise you...

Tithing is indeed ordered in the Old Testament, as instructed by Yahweh to Moses on Mt. Sinai. According to the law, we are to give ten percent of what we earn to God, and thus the Church. (See Lev. 27:30-34 for details.) In the New Testament, this is more of an implied requirement, where the emphasis is on voluntary giving. (See Matt. 5:17-19, 6:21; 2 Cor. 9.6-7.)

Church history tells us that tithing was taught as a Christian duty as early as the fourth century, but it was never part of the polity of the Episcopal Church in the United States. So as much as we like the idea, because ten percent of everyone's income would probably solve all of the Church's problems, it's not a requirement. And certainly, God's love for us is not affected by whether we tithe or not.

Before you think we are off the hook, however, I would suggest something surprising... that although tithing is not required to receive God's grace, God wants us to give generously... and tithing is the bare minimum!

Please don't stop reading.

(continued on next page)



Clergy Corner continued from page 1

I know you're wondering, "If tithing is just a New Testament 'suggestion,' why is tithing the bare minimum?"

God loves us so much that he gave his Son for us. This is a precious gift, and God wants us to say thank you by being generous and ready to share. This means our gift is a willing and loving response to God. You can't put a price on salvation.

Look at it this way: As Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" God asks us the same. And the answer should be from our heart—not just a throwaway line that you'd give a loved one at the end of your weekly phone conversation—but an honest expression of gratitude and love. If you believe in the work of the Church, and what God has planned for St. James', give generously as God has given to you—simply because you love Him.

The problem with tithing is that it allows us to think that ten percent of our money is God's and ninety percent is ours, when the truth is that 100 percent is God's, and he wants at least ten percent back—as a thank you for his love and an acknowledgment of the gift of the other ninety percent. And giving from the leftovers isn't really a sacrificial sign of love...

Now, I am well aware that many of us can't afford ten percent. And God understands. But for those who can, God doesn't want us giving out of the leftovers anymore. So what do we do? How do we decide what to give?

First, think about what God has given you. Consider that it all belongs to God, and God needs some of it to manage God's work in the world. God needs some of it back so the Good News can be shared.

Next, remember that this is a gift of gratitude. God has blessed us abundantly, and our gifts should reflect an expression of our love.

Finally, pray. There is always inspiration in prayer.

Thank you for reading this and for considering an increase to your annual pledge. If you do not yet pledge, I encourage you to do so. Not only will it help you keep your commitment to God, it will help us manage our budget. Contributions made in the offering plate each week are not counted when we consider our budgetary needs—because we never know exactly what we are going to get. Pledges help with our forecasting.

We can't put this off until "someday" when we're rich. Recall the woman who gave all that she had. Jesus was more impressed with her than with the gifts of the wealthy, because she knew the value of her relationship with God—and although the rich may well have known what it meant to be in relationship with God, their giving did not show it. (Mark 12:41-44)

God loves us. God needs us. Please help us lighten our burden so that we may look ahead to the new things God has planned.

(Oxford Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church; "Good Money and You: Why you should not tithe," by Steven J. Cole, bible.org)

Rev. Meredith

Ecumenical Lenten Dinner and Study Wednesdays in Lent



The five churches of our area are hosting a Lenten dinner and study program on Wednesdays in Lent. Please come get to know our neighbors!

The schedule is dinner at 6:30 p.m., devotion at 7:15 p.m., and study at 7:30 p.m. We have two Wednesdays left:

March 29 Seven Locks Baptist:
"The Creeds"

April 5 Geneva Presbyterian:
"The Crucifixion and
Resurrection"

A Report from our Children School's Director, Astrid Crookshank

Children Play and Learn Outdoors—Come Join us!

The original Kindergarten, the “children’s garden” conceived by German educator Friedrich Froebel in the nineteenth century, was a place where children learned through play, and often they learned outside, playing in nature. There are countless benefits of playing outdoors, including physical, social, and cognitive development. It is in the outdoors that children can best practice and experience gross motor skills like running, climbing, and jumping, and ball throwing, kicking, and catching.

Cognitive and social/emotional development happens outside too. Children invent games to express themselves and learn about the world. Although the children are only playing to have fun, they’re learning to cooperate and communicate, creating rules for their games using decision-making and organizational skills. Water play and mud puddles are great resources for early science experiments, while digging tunnels, building dirt bridges and roads lay the foundations for our future engineers.

With the many recent previews of spring weather, the teachers and children at St. James’ Children’s School are excited to spend more time playing and learning outdoors. We are very fortunate at St. James’ to have so much outdoor space available to the school and we are looking forward to using some of the areas in a new way. The children already use the back garden for digging and planting and soon we will have a new

outdoor classroom space in our playground funded by last year’s school auction. The new area will offer areas for circle time, music, art, and lots of space for building and creating. We have purchased a set of large outdoor blocks, ramps, and wheelbarrows to encourage construction, free dramatic play, and child-created games. The new classroom will be under construction over the next few weeks, and we hope to have it ready for students by the end of April.

The school would like to celebrate Earth Day by preparing our garden area for the children and planting some flowers around the school. If you enjoy getting “back to nature” and are willing to get a little dirty, come play with us on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will provide plants, mulch, and bags. If you have gloves and small hand tools for digging and weeding, please bring them along. We will end the workday with a picnic lunch to celebrate!

Please email or call the school to let us know that you can join us, at 301-762-3246 or schoolstjames@comcast.net.

Thank you!

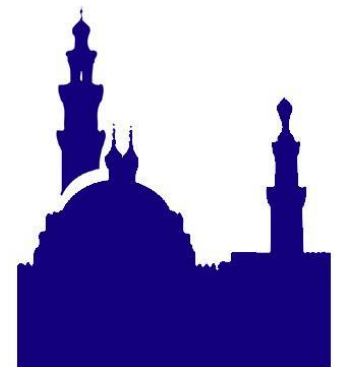
Astrid



Good Friday Offering

Support Mission in the Holy Land

On Good Friday, offerings are invited from across The Episcopal Church to support the four dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Funds are used to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, healthcare and educational programs throughout the region. To learn more about our Church’s work in the Middle East please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering.



Jesus said, “Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.” (John 12:29)

Good Friday Liturgy and Noon Vigil

On Good Friday (April 14), St. James' will again hold a three-hour liturgy and vigil beginning at noon. As in the past, the service will begin with the opening of the Good Friday liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, continue with a series of prayers, hymns, periods of silence, and meditations on the passion narrative, and conclude with the remaining portion of the prayer book liturgy. The 7:30 p.m. Good Friday service will follow the Prayer Book liturgy, but without the expanded treatment of the passion narrative.

This year the passion narrative is taken from the Gospel of Matthew. We will read Matthew's account of Jesus' last days straight through at our Sunday services on Palm Sunday, and then again, more slowly, at the noon service on Good Friday. On Good Friday, the story will be broken up into smaller pieces, and each piece will be read, reflected on by a member of the congregation, prayed over both in silence and aloud, and sung about.

Good Friday Meditations

If you enjoyed doing a daily reflection in Lent, or wish you had done one, please consider stepping forward to do a Good Friday meditation. This project has really shown forth the depth of spirituality and ability to express it on the part of so many of our parishioners. To sign up, use the [SignUp Genius link](#) in your News and Notes email, the form in church, or email the office at office@stjamespotomac.org.

Below is a listing of the sections of the story, along with prompts for reflection on each section. The prompts are merely suggestions for those who would like a place to start. You are free to use or ignore the prompts provided here. Your reflection should be about three minutes long.

1. *Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus prays in Gethsemane.* Prompt: Jesus says to sit and pray with him. Disciples doze off. Do we ever fall asleep/turn away from doing what Jesus asks, when things are tough?
2. *Matthew 26:47-56, Judas betrays Jesus and Jesus is arrested.* Prompt: The disciples attempt to defend Jesus using violence. How do we use violence? Think of the way we use our words.
3. *Matthew 26:57-68, Jesus before the High Priest.* Prompt: Do we ever put Jesus on trial, ask him to prove something?
4. *Matthew 26:69-75, Peter betrays Jesus.* Prompt: Do we ever deny knowing Jesus, perhaps to fit in?
5. *Matthew 27:1-10, Judas commits suicide.* Prompt: When have we said "What is that to us? See to it yourself!" to someone who regrets their actions or has changed their mind?
6. *Matthew 27:11-26, Pilate questions Jesus and hands him over to be crucified.* Prompt: When do we choose something over Jesus?
7. *Matthew 27:27-38, Jesus is mocked and crucified.* Prompt: When have we joined or acquiesced in the mockery and abuse of someone who has done no harm?
8. *Matthew 27:39-44, "He saved others, he cannot save himself."* Prompt: We believe Jesus can fix things. What about when things don't get fixed? Do we lose faith?
9. *Matthew 27:45-51, 54, Jesus dies.* Prompt: Which of the bystanders would we be most like if this happened today?
10. *Matthew 27:57-61 Jesus is buried.* Prompt: Joseph cares for the broken body of Jesus. How do we handle what is broken in our lives?
11. *Matthew 27:61-66, Soldiers stand guard at the tomb.* Prompt: Jesus is now where we do not have access to him, in darkness and death. What have we tried to lock away where we do not have access?

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, and Brunch, April 9

Services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., Brunch at noon

Procession with palms and a dramatic reading of the Passion of Christ. Join us in the parish hall for brunch to support our youth on their summer WorkCamp trip.

Maundy Thursday Supper with Foot Washing

April 13, 6:30 p.m., beginning parish hall, followed by Stripping of the Altar in the church

Gather in the parish hall for a potluck supper and the foot-washing liturgy, then process to the church for the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday Vigil and Liturgy

April 14, noon and 7:30 p.m.

Liturgy and Vigil, noon to 3:00 p.m.

(come and go as able)

Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services and Egg Hunt, April 16

Services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Brass, bells, and a glorious celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord! Join us for Holy Eucharist at both services and a Children's Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 service.

Shepherd's Table, Wednesday, March 29

Time to "Spring Forward" into our Shepherd's Table commitment and Service this Wednesday, March 29. Thank you for volunteering and forming our indispensable and helpful team.

The first shift begins at 4:00 p.m. and does setup and prep work. It ends when the second shift takes over. The second shift begins at 5:45 p.m. and serves the clientele and cleans up after.

Thank you also for letting Tom Goodkind know you can participate, as I am flying to Belgium next Monday.

Mark your calendars in advance for our next Shepherd's Table on May 31, 2017.

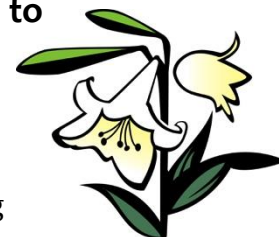
Happy Spring! Merci,
Claude Williams-van Bellinghen

The Boston Girl: March 26 Book Club

The twenty-two year old asks her eighty-five year old grandmother, Addie, "How did you get to be the woman you are today?" Addie's story starts in 1915 where the fifteen-year-old begins to come into her own. As the first American-born member of her immigrant family, what was it like to be an Eastern European Jewish family in a multi-cultural Boston neighborhood? As one reviewer said, "*The Boston Girl* is a moving portrait of one woman's complicated life in twentieth-century America..." Surviving WWI, the flu epidemic, dealing with women's vastly changing roles, Addie has much to impart to her granddaughter.

What will the discussion group bring out regarding the religious life of Addie and her family, family values, relevance to our lives today? Come to the parish hall library room at 6:45 p.m., Sunday, March 26, and find out; add your opinions and questions to the discussion. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there.

Easter Flowers—Your Chance to Rejoice, Honor, Remember



Spring is finally here, and soon our worship space will be transformed by flowers expressing our thankfulness and joy as we celebrate Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. It's a beautiful opportunity to express your joy, to honor someone, or to remember departed friends and family. As always, we will have some flowers or plants to send home for those who can't attend church.

We'll accept flower offerings through Monday, April 10. Please use the flower envelopes in the pew for your donation and your dedication will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins. You can help by printing your name and dedication very clearly on the envelope or sending it by email to the office, at office@stjamespotomac.org. Please indicate whether it is in honor or in memory of your loved ones.

State's Attorney Coming to Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, April 4

John McCarthy, State's Attorney for Montgomery County, will be the guest speaker for the April 4 program. Always engaging, his topics may range from recent cases and sentencing to Mental Health Court—or they may not! It's been a few years since he spoke to the group, and he will likely cover several topics, all of them interesting. There will also be the opportunity for questions from the group.

The menu is undetermined at this point, yet it is always a complete, delicious meal. If you have a special dietary requirement, mention that when you make your reservation with Sarah Padgett. Keep in mind that all are welcome, so invite a friend or acquaintance, plan to pay only \$10.00 per lunch, and join the casual, friendly gathering in the undercroft.

Pictured at right, from last month's presentation: Steve Roberts, author, newsman, and commentator, headed the program for the March 7 Lunch & Learn meeting. Using several families stories as examples, he spoke to the approximately thirty attendees of the shifting demographics of Montgomery County, the differences in first and second generation immigrants, and the negative and positive effects of "The Changing Face of Montgomery County."



Scenes from the March 8 Lenten Ecumenical Dinner and Study time at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.



April Birthdays

- 04/01 Andrew Iype
- 04/02 Wynn Forrest
- 04/02 Nathan Meselebe
- 04/02 Samuel Hicks
- 04/04 Gilbert Jackson
- 04/04 Spencer Agoston
- 04/06 Angela Bennett
- 04/06 Kellye Pham
- 04/06 Simone Nicholson
- 04/09 Kate Whistler
- 04/12 Nicholas Tondravi
- 04/12 Carolyn Ragland
- 04/13 Jo Ann Thompson
- 04/14 Jennifer Cox
- 04/14 Wayne Williams Jr.
- 04/14 Bill Josey
- 04/15 Maria Mikosz
- 04/15 Elisa Willems
- 04/17 Lori Minasian
- 04/17 Benjamin Delaney
- 04/18 Stephen Reckford
- 04/19 Rebecca Lartey
- 04/19 Lucas Castro
- 04/20 Andrew Gimblett
- 04/21 Linda Ellis
- 04/23 Karen Clough
- 04/23 Denver Williams
- 04/24 Carter Jones
- 04/25 Matthew Hicks
- 04/28 Oliver Bennett
- 04/29 Charles Padgett
- 04/30 Elizabeth Alexander
- 04/30 Crawford Brown

April Anniversaries

- 4/3 Amy and Shawn Metcalf
- 4/20 Bill and Doris Wallace
- 4/20 Karen and Brian Eaton
- 4/25 Barbara and Horace Ward
- 4/27 John and Maureen Schiavone
- 4/30 Charles Jr. and Patricia Lundelius

St. James' Prayer List

We update the prayer list monthly. To remain on the list or to be added, call the office by the Pilgrim due date. For immediate prayer requests, please contact our prayer chain chair, Alice Morrison, at 301-881-1039.

Sympathy: For the family of Sarah Steuteville, daughter of Parke and Karen Brown, and in thanksgiving for her life.

Healing: Krista Stammeyer; Cassidy Wyatt; Robin, Tom and Emily Roegner; Elaine Buschor; Kate Whistler; Mary Shepard; Mary Slaby; Phyllis Cole; Ian Meselebe; Jon and Jill Fritz; Peggy Sussman; Grace Huff; Corrina Wyatt; John Eisold; Helen Clark; Doris Wallace; Anne McDonough, *Kris Smithberger's mother*; Susan Porter, *daughter-in-law of Carolyn and George Dick*; Kim and Tom Strassner and Charles Tipton, *daughter-in-law, grandson and brother of Ann Pararas*; Joyce Marvel, *mother of Eric Hall*; Sally Lusk, *mother of Jonathan Lusk*; Samia Ragheb, *relative of Lindsay Ragheb*; Ann Mayo, *mother of Susan Lusk*; Wayne Meyer, *Sarah Padgett's niece's fiancé*; Kimberly Carruthers, *daughter of Tom and Nancy Carruthers*; Marcy and Samantha Reiser, *sister-in-law and niece of Susie Jones*; Jennifer Harner, *David Olson's sister*; Bill Crawford and Dave Brunzell, *brothers-in-law of Dave Lauritzen*; Donald Sewell, *Ann Sewell's husband*; Jeanne Smallwood, *Charlie Padgett's sister*; Ann Wixon, *Lindsey Harris's mother*; Autumn Rain Finch, *Ann Venton's granddaughter*; Jack Linehan and his sister, Jean Leavitt; Bill and Billy Leavitt, *Jack Linehan's brother-in-law and nephew*; Waveney Sewlall, *Jean DaCosta's sister*.

Continuing Prayers: Sarah Padgett; Ann Venton; Adam Wyatt; Gil Jackson; Runi Slaughter; Jo Shepard; Evelin Bostic, *Melanie Williams's mother*; Carl Moore, *Pat East's brother*; Kathy Duncan, *Sarah and Charlie Padgett's niece*; Creed Gallagher and Lauren Bruan, *Alice Morrison's grandchildren*; Ethel Filbert, *Dot Filbert's mother*; Donald and Marilyn Carter, *Robin Roegner's parents*; Brenda Long, *Phyllis Cole's sister*; Jayson Amor, *Dennis and Kellye's son*; Michael Graf, *Joyce Graf's brother-in-law*; Donna Marquardt, *Elaine Buschor's sister*; Chris Wallace and family, *Bill and Doris's son*; Dot Filbert and her brothers, John and Bill; Marge Jackson, *Jill Fritz's mother*; David Schlesinger, *Fran Dover's son-in-law*.

For those serving away: Tim Donnelly (Germany), Bess Goglewski (France), Angela and Karl Bennett (Jamaica).



St. James' Episcopal Church

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email: office@stjamespotomac.org

Web: www.stjamespotomac.org

Youth Web: www.stjamespotomac.org/youth

St. James' mission: To bring people together to be transformed by and to proclaim Christ's love through worship, spiritual formation, and service.

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Eucharist
 9:15 a.m. Adult Education and childcare
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Eucharist for all ages, Sunday School, and childcare

St. James' Staff

Rector: The Rev. Meredith Heffner
 rector@stjamespotomac.org

Assistant Rector: The Rev. James S. Isaacs
 james@stjamespotomac.org

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Director of Music Ministry, Parish Rentals Contact:
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Youth Director: Rachele Donnelly,
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Director, St. James' Children's School: Astrid Crookshank
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Parish Administrator: Grace Lo, office@stjamespotomac.org

Office Assistant: Kirsten Hall, kirsten@stjamespotomac.org

The Vestry of St. James' Parish, 2017

Barry Thompson, *Senior Warden*; Sarah Hnatov, *Junior Warden*

James Beebe	Carolyn Dick	John Eisold
Lindsey Harris	Holly Mulderig	Joyce Nohowel
Isabelle Schuessler	Sandy Soundararajan	Harley Venton
Bill Wallace	Katherine Weaver	Len Whistler

Vestry Officers

Tracy Lively, Treasurer
 Parke Brown, Asst. Treasurer
 Ken Van Valkenburgh, Secretary
 Scott Zimmerman, Clerk-Registrar

The Pilgrim is published bi-weekly. Submissions are due the Wednesday before publication date; email submissions to the church office at pilgrim@stjamespotomac.org.



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Address Service Requested

The St. James' Pilgrim—News for the Journey

Pilgrimages with the National Cathedral

**Lives, Legends, and Landscapes. May 19-27
 Led by Terri Lynn Simpson**

There are still a few spots left to join this pilgrimage to Southern Wales. Visit the ancient Roman site of Caerwent, abbey ruins and holy wells, and Brecon Cathedral as we explore the roots of the church in the Celtic community.

**Faith Over Fear: Welcoming the Stranger
 Interfaith dialogue at the Cathedral**

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
 Registration 6:30 p.m., Program 7:00-9:00 p.m.

With small group conversation, a hosted dialogue with Maureen Fiedler of Interfaith Voices on WAMU, and invitation for growth and action.

For more information, visit:
<http://cathedral.org/event/faith-fear-welcoming-stranger/>

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