



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



Thoughts from our Rector, The Rev. Meredith Heffner

A Royal Message becomes a Rule of Life

Earlier this summer, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop, catapulted The Episcopal Church into the headlines when he delivered the homily at the Royal Wedding of Meghan Markle to Prince Harry. It was fun to watch the Brits squirm at Bishop Curry's engaging, unreserved, and definitely un-British style of preaching. But even more special was to hear his words, and realize he was speaking not just to the royal couple, but to each of us—speaking positive and encouraging words in a world in desperate need of compassion and love.

In his sermon, Bishop Curry shared the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world. Love is the only way.”

Curry's reflection on this passage was beautiful, and if you missed it, I encourage you to take the time to listen to or read his words. (Google *Michael Curry and the Royal Wedding* and you'll find plenty of resources—both about the wedding and the preacher as well as any Royal Wedding trivia you could possibly imagine....)

As a clergy-person, I've heard Bishop Curry's message delivered many times, by many preachers, in many different ways. The challenge is always the same: discovering *how*, exactly, we are to love in such a way that this old world of ours is made new—and inspiring people to do it.

It seems Bishop Curry has been pondering this as well...

Over the past months, in anticipation of General Convention (the meeting of the leaders of our Church), Bishop Curry and his staff spent a lot of time considering how the Church can intentionally move forward, encouraging its members to reconnect to a Jesus-centered life.

As good Episcopalians often do, they began by trying to dream up a new program—but after lengthy conversations, they came to the conclusion that the Church already has plenty of programs through which we, as a Church, can recommit ourselves to Jesus.

In fact, as I mentioned in a recent sermon, monastic communities have shaped their lives around the rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together for centuries. Such a pattern is known as a “Rule of Life.” Using resources from the past, Curry and team developed a new “Rule of Life” for our day and age, suggesting practices that keep us focused on Jesus.

They are calling this rule of life *The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life*, and have produced resources for us to use in our daily lives, to focus on spiritual practices that will keep us connected to Jesus, and help us live into Curry's message of love.

Basically, through this new “rule of life,” we are called to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest. More specific information can be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/explore-way-love, but in summary, the rule consists of the following:

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Thoughts from our Rector, continued from page 1**The Way of Love**

Turn	Pray, listen, and choose to follow Jesus.
Learn	Reflect on scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.
Pray	Dwell intentionally with God each day.
Worship	Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God.
Bless	Share faith and unselfishly give and serve.
Go	Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus.
Rest	Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration.

By entering into reflection, discernment, and commitment around these practices, Bishop Curry's hope is that "we grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus." Read them, and consider what each practice means to you. What are you already incorporating into your spiritual life? Where could you make changes? What surprises you? What inspires you? I join Bishop Curry in encouraging you to consider these practices, and to make them part of your spiritual routine.

Many say that these are anxious times and that change is needed. Bishop Curry believes that only Jesus has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world, and that these practices will help us move in new directions. Join me in reflecting on your spiritual practices; consider *The Way of Love*, reconnect with Jesus, and— together—let's experience new life.

Rev. Meredith

Guest Preachers August 5 and 12**The Rev. Dr. Carol Flett, August 5**

On Sunday, August 5, The Rev. Carol Flett joins us once again as our Celebrant. Rev. Carol is the Interfaith Programs Coordinator at Cathedral College, Washington National Cathedral. She is a member of the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council.

The Rev. Alan Mason, August 12

On Sunday, August 12, we welcome St. James' member The Rev. Alan Mason as our Celebrant and preacher at both services. Here's a little bit of what we know about him:

Rev. Alan Mason was raised on a chicken farm in Rhode Island. He went to Seminary in New Haven, Connecticut. Later he was assigned by his Bishop to develop a settlement house in a low-income neighborhood of Providence, Rhode Island. He tutored in after-school programs and organized a six-week day camp in the suburbs (led by volunteer college students).

Rev. Alan attended graduate school in Cincinnati, Ohio, for his Public Administration and "People" Planning degrees. He developed a Department of Human Services in two towns in Connecticut, with Dial a Ride, senior visiting, and Town Manager in Training programs.

While Vicar of a small parish in the Northeast corner of Connecticut, he developed a healing ministry and offered healing services every fifth Sunday. He helped the parish leadership work together; no Vestry decisions were taken unless all agreed. In 1983 he developed the program "Baptized in the Holy Spirit" with his wife Susan, providing Christian Counseling and healing in the evenings through the year 2000.

One interesting and poignant connection mentioned by Rev. Alan was that he was mentor to Jonathan Myrick Daniels, the Episcopal Seminarian and civil rights activist who was martyred in Alabama during voter registration in 1965; Daniels's feast day is August 14.

Reflection from our Music Director, Newton Lewis



It's Biblical!

Why do we have music in church? Why is there so much singing? The primary answer to that is that it's Biblical!

Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 5:18-20, "Do not get drunk with wine...but

be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God...."

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are thrown in jail, and what do they do? Mope around feeling sorry for themselves? No. They sing praises and thanksgivings to God. Their jailers are so astonished that they too become believers in Jesus. I don't think the jailers came to believe because Paul and Silas were diva singers, but because even though they were physically captive, they sang because they were spiritually free.

All this singing and music has its roots in the Old Testament. From the beginning of the world, as we are reminded in Job 38:7, "the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy." The Psalms are the Songs of David and were intended to be sung.

In 2 Chronicles, when Hezekiah restores worship in the Temple, we get a glimpse of what worship was like. Starting at verse 25:

"He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with harps, with lyres according to the command of David....for the command was from the Lord through His prophets [in other words, the Lord commanded music]. The Levites stood with the musical instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord also began with the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David, King of Israel. While the

whole assembly worshiped, the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished."

The command of David and David's instruments refers back to 1 Chronicles 23:5 where David requires 4000 musicians to serve in the Temple, praising the Lord on David's instruments. This worship is reflected in Revelation, in heaven when "every creature in heaven and on earth and in the sea" will join in singing praises to God and to Christ, the one true sacrifice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."

Scripture tells us pretty clearly that music and singing are part of our worship. Since the Reformation, worshiping together as a group has been held as paramount. Before that, people observed the priestly goings-on from a distance in a language they didn't understand. In fact, in the pre-Vatican II rites, the consecration was usually inaudible to the congregation, though often accompanied by the ringing of bells.

One of the important ways of achieving group worship has been to make congregational singing an essential part of our worship. This is because when we are singing together, we are no longer observers. We are participants. We become truly present in mind, body, and spirit.

This is not some sort of fanciful poetic statement. It is actually quite true. Try this some time: when you're alone, let loose with your favorite song. While you are doing that, you'll find that you will not be able to think of your grocery list! Because when we sing, we become focused. It's with this kind of focus that singing is one of the ways that we express our love for God with our whole being.

When we sing in worship, we both give our individual voices to the whole ensemble and receive the creation of that ensemble. It's like the saying: "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Voice by voice we are transformed from merely attending worship to participating in worship.

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Reflection from our Music Director, continued from page 3

It's sad, I think, that between TV and computers we've been turned into a society of observers and not doers. People seem to think that if they aren't a rock star or vocal diva they can't sing. There's an African saying, "If you can walk, you can dance; if you can talk, you can sing." The psalm says to "make a joyful noise." We are called to experience worship, to experience joy, to experience healing, and to experience community. As we sing we build community; we express our common purpose, the reasons we find ourselves together: sharing our common struggles and sadness, seeking God's love and comfort, and

giving our thanks and praise to God for all he has done for us and given to us.

Bishop Brewer from the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida says in a sermon, "Singing is an important part of who we are and who God created us to be. Music that honors God will cause our hearts to sing. And when our hearts sing, worship happens. We're transformed on the inside as we're filled with the Spirit and devote everything we are to worship, praise, and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father."

Newton

Living Into The Way of Love, Practice Two: Learning

One of the *Way of Love* practices we are encouraged to adopt is "Learning:" setting time aside to read scripture, using spiritual resources, and considering what it means to be good stewards of our abundance so that we connect more deeply with God and are able to more clearly discern God's path.

To that end, St. James' offers Sunday morning spiritual formation which we call *FaithTalk*. We meet from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m., between services, in the parish hall meeting room. This summer, we are studying the scripture that is assigned for our Sunday worship (a lectionary Bible study), and we are already making our plans for the fall.

We begin our new program year on Rally Day, September 9. Join us that morning to review the upcoming programs, described below. We're calling that class, "Faith Talk 101."

The following Sunday, September 16, during Faith Talk we invite you to: "Meet our Seminarian, Mary Margaret Winn."

The Care of Creation

On September 23 we'll begin a six-week course on "The Care of Creation." Using *The Green Bible* as our resource, we'll study the goodness of creation, finding God through creation, being part of creation, caring for creation, the human capacity

to harm creation, and God's plan for a new creation.

Faithful Technology: Cyber security 101

Beginning on November 4, we'll spend three weeks learning to be faithful users of technology. The Internet is fun and useful, but it can also put our computers and personal information at risk, even when we think we're not using it! Thankfully, there are steps we can take to make and keep ourselves mostly safe online. Come to hear basic steps we can all take, presented by Marshall Finch, MCSE, System Administrator for ADNET Systems Inc. at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The first week we will start out with the basics, like what the risks are, who cares about your computer, and the easiest steps to take to become safer. The following two weeks we'll go into more detail about specific ways we can stay safe online. There will be time for discussion each week. Here's a preview: patch, passwords, backups!

Advent Series: Breathing Underwater

After a one-week break for Thanksgiving, we will enter the season of Advent where we will explore parallels between the spiritual journey and the framework of twelve-step recovery. Find out what the Book of Common Prayer, the Saint Augustine Prayer Book, the rule of Saint Benedict,

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Living Into the Way of Love, continued from page 4

and one of today's most popular Franciscan authors have in common... Our basic text will be *Breathing Underwater* by Richard Rohr, O.S.F. (If you would like to order a copy, contact Ann Venton.)

Inspired

We will also resume our Thursday morning Bible Study on September 13. This group meets weekly from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in our parish hall meeting room.

We will be using Rachel Held Evans's book *Inspired* to spark a conversation about what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. We'll examine some of our favorite pieces of scripture and possible interpretations, wrestling with the text, understanding that the Bible is not a static work, but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book, equipping us to be part of God's loving and redemptive work in the world. Contact Rev. Meredith if you need to know how to obtain a copy of the book.

We hope you will make time to join us for some of the learning opportunities. In our learning we will grow together, deepening our faith and drawing closer to God.

Faith Talk Calendar (Sundays)

September 9	Faith Talk 101: what it is, what is offered, what you'll learn
September 16	Meet our Seminarian, Mary Margaret Winn
September 23	Care of Creation: And It Was Good
September 30	Care of Creation: Finding God
October 7	Care Of Creation: Connected to Creation
October 14	Care of Creation: Justice
October 21	Care of Creation: The Full Impact of Sin
October 28	Care of Creation: The New Earth
November 4	Faithful Technology
November 11	Faithful Technology
November 18	Faithful Technology
November 25	Thanksgiving weekend, no Faith Talk
December 2	Advent 1: Waltzing with God
December 9	Advent 2: Self Examination and Reconciliation
December 16	Advent 3: Navigating Forgiveness
December 23	Advent 4: The Maintenance Steps: Examen, Exaltation, Evangelism

It's Time Again for Rally Day—September 9

Once again we come together on the Sunday after Labor Day to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School and the start of a new program year. We call this day "Rally Day."



We reported this last year, and it's worth repeating. According to the 1905 book, *How to Conduct a Sunday School*, Rally Day "is used as a means of rallying the forces again for the work of fall and winter. When a general is preparing for a battle, he is said to *rally* his forces. When a sick person begins to recover it is said of him that he is *rallying*. When a bookbinder brings together in one place the different sections of a book to be bound into one he is said to be *rallying* the book.

All of these phrases may be applied to the Sunday-school work; we are rallying our forces for the great campaign of the fall and winter."

Although some may shy away from the image of "rallying" together like an army general, there is something to be said for encouraging our teachers, inspiring our children, and celebrating the reunion of our community after a summer break. "Rallying," then, becomes an act of bringing us together—that we celebrate for the rest of the academic year.

This year Rally Day will again include a picnic sponsored both by the Sunday School and St. James' Children's School. Details will be provided soon. We hope you'll join us on September 9 for the celebration!

Vestry Highlights

Meeting of July 17, 2018

Your Vestry, led by Rev. Meredith, held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 17.

Dawn Iype offered her reflection, based upon the book, *Sleeping with Bread*, in which children, removed from their families because of war, were reassured by having a piece of bread with which to sleep, saying "I ate today; I shall eat again tomorrow." We likewise can be assured that God is here today and will be here tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report

Church finances are in good shape, with parishioner contributions currently at 115% of projection and expenses lower than expected across most commissions and activities.

Rector's Report

- ♦ The scheduled meeting (July 23) with Mr. Ben Dutton, our facilities assessment consultant: His draft report has been distributed to members of the Vestry and the Finance Commission. The two most pressing issues are the church roof and the ramp to the parish hall. The Finance chairperson, James Beebe, outlined options for financing through Sandy Spring Bank (which holds the church mortgage). Additional options are being pursued with the Strategic Financial Resources Commission of the diocese. Painting of the exterior of the parish hall and surface repairs to the parking lots were discussed, both on the Facilities Commission maintenance schedule.
- ♦ An update from the Strategic Financial Resources Commission at a meeting this week with the committee from St. James'. A space utilization review of church properties and considerations for a future Capital Campaign were discussed.
- ♦ Continuing activities in support of the discernment process, including an invitation to vestry members who have not responded to the questionnaire to do so promptly.
- ♦ Reminders of upcoming events: church picnic (July 22), backpack filling (July 29), Rally Sunday (September 9), and Rev. Meredith's vacation August 3-19. Supply priests will conduct services August 5 and 12, and Father

Mac from St. Francis, Potomac, will be available for pastoral care in the rector's absence.

- ♦ An announcement that a fall rummage sale may or may not be held in October, depending upon the availability of leaders and a cadre of committed workers.

Commission Reports (filed with the minutes)

Administration and Personnel (Joyce Nohowel): Membership for the Nominating Committee (Fall 2018) was proposed and approved. Katherine Weaver will serve as chairperson. Dawn Iype, Brad McCullough, Amy Metcalf, and Mary Slaby will be members.

Communications (Dawn Iype): The church website, email outreach, News and Notes, *The Pilgrim*, sermon videos, and Facebook have significant but modest activity. Photos of church activities are sought. Please contact the church office or Dawn for information on submitting them to a central repository.

Membership and Fellowship (Carolyn Dick): The April "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" event and the June Newcomers' Gathering were successes. Welcome bags for visitors and newcomers continue to be available. Name tags need emphasis. **Please wear your name tag** at services and fellowship hour. Additional parishioners are needed as Greeters. **Please sign up!**

Wardens' Reports

The Senior Warden announced that the effectiveness of our cleaning services is being reviewed by the Church Administrator, so that deficiencies can be addressed and resolved. The Junior Warden was unable to attend this meeting.

New Business

Reverend Meredith reviewed the roles and responsibilities of vestry members and clergy in the stewardship activities that will commence in the early fall (rather than in the November time frame of years past). Vestry persons will submit their pledges prior to the campaign.

The Vestry will meet next on August 21.

Barry Thompson, Senior Warden

St. James' Recommended Vestry Nominating Committee For 2018

Katherine Weaver – Chair and outgoing vestry
 Dawn Iype – Vestry
 Amy Metcalf
 Brad McCullough
 Mary Slaby

The above commission meets the requirements of Section III, G. Election Procedures (below.)

Joyce I. Nohowel, Chair, Administration Commission

Excerpt from St. James' by-laws as Approved ...

G. Election Procedures:

1. Nominations:

a) Not later than sixty days prior to an election at a Parish Meeting, the Vestry shall approve and make known to the Parish a Nominating Committee of at least five members, one of whom shall be a retiring member of the Vestry, if possible, and one of whom shall have served on the preceding year's nominating committee, if possible. All such appointees shall be registered voters of the Parish. The Nominating Committee may include members of the Vestry, but neither the chairman nor a majority of the committee may be Vestry members. The Committee shall be charged with the responsibility for nominating candidates for the offices of Wardens, Vestry members, Delegates, and Alternate Delegates.

b) The Vestry shall instruct the Committee as to the number and terms of Wardens, Vestry members and other positions to be elected.

c) The roster of the Nominating Committee members shall be: (1) prominently published in the Sunday bulletin and Parish newsletter; and sent by surface or electronic mail to all Parishioners, who shall also be informed of the standards and qualifications prescribed by these by-laws for the selection of nominees and invited to submit to the Committee, within fourteen days next following the date of the mailing, names of persons requested to be considered for nomination.

d) Candidates for nomination shall be members entitled to vote under Section II of these bylaws and communicants in good standing with St. James' Episcopal Church according to the Constitution & Canons of The Episcopal Church.

e) The Committee shall nominate at least one qualified candidate for each of the offices to be filled. The Committee shall report its actions to the Vestry not later than thirty days next preceding the date set for the Annual Meeting. The committee shall publish its report within one week of reporting to the Vestry.

f) In addition to the candidates nominated by the Committee, other persons may be nominated by written petition signed by not fewer than ten qualified voters of the Parish. Such petitions shall be filed with the Nominating Committee not later than fourteen days before the Annual Meeting. Persons nominated by petition shall meet the requirements in paragraph "d" above. A candidate must have given consent to the nomination.

g) The Committee shall, in accordance with guidelines set by the Vestry, publish an informative report of the names of those nominated by it and by petition as soon as possible but not later than ten days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

St. James' Serving at Shepherd's Table, August 29

Shepherd's Table is a well-run resource center for hungry and homeless people in our area. Please come for St. James' turn to serve and prepare meals. **We especially need those who can push a mop and help with clean-up!**

There will be two shifts: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. to set up and prepare salads, and 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. to serve and clean up.

To sign up contact Mary Miers or Claude Williams-van-Bellinghen via the office, office@stjamespotomac.org (or the office, 301-762-8040).

Located at 8106 Georgia Ave.,
Silver Spring, MD.

Thank you, servers!



Report from the Communications Commission

Members

Kirsten Hall: website content manager; designer for *The Pilgrim*, parish emails, flyers, etc.
 Dawn Iype: Facebook admin, video recording and editing, website maintenance
 Ashanti Mathai: branding project
 Mary Miers: *The Pilgrim* editor
 Holly Mulderig: public relations / media outreach
 Ann Venton: Facebook admin

Meetings

There are currently no regularly scheduled Communications Commission meetings. Meetings are held ad-hoc on a project basis as needed, or items are discussed via email.

Projects

- ♦ Ensuring news and information is shared with the St. James' community through print and digital channels.
- ♦ Maintaining and improving the website, www.stjamespotomac.org.
- ♦ Sharing content on our Facebook page.
- ♦ Recording sermons and sharing them online.
- ♦ Increasing the visibility of St. James' in the local media.

- ♦ Upcoming: Establish brand standards for St. James'. Assess website effectiveness; plan for upgrades. Consider adding online giving.

How the Vestry (and Parish) Can Help

- ♦ Keep communications in mind in your commission's work. Think about what can and should be shared via a *Pilgrim* article, a flyer in the Sunday bulletin, a blurb in a News and Notes email, a Facebook post, etc. Write or ask people you work with to write about the good work you are doing.
- ♦ Take photos and email them to stjamespotomac@yogile.com.
- ♦ Regularly review the website, particularly pages for commissions/projects that you are involved with. If you notice outdated information, let the office know. Refer parishioners to the website if they are looking for upcoming events, past sermons, etc.
- ♦ When hosting an event that will be open to the public, let Holly Mulderig know so she can get it on community calendars and potentially pitch it to local reporters.
- ♦ If you are comfortable sharing your faith on social media, follow St. James' on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJamesPotomac/. Like, share, and comment on our posts.

Book Club, August 26

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng will be the book for the Sunday, August 26, meeting in the parish hall at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome to the group-led discussion where any opinion is accepted and everyone leaves with new insights. Ending time is around 8:15 p.m. No reservations are necessary; even having finished the book is not really a requirement.

Into a planned community, where most follow the unspoken rules, comes a mother-daughter pair who are "different." They occupy a rental owned by one of the families. Yet another family seeks to adopt a Chinese-American baby. To quote from

one of the reviews, "The magic of this novel lies in its power to implicate all of its characters—and likely many of its readers—in that innocent delusion (of a post-racial America). Who set the little fires everywhere? We keep reading to find out, even as we suspect that it could be us with ash on our hands."

Will we feel empathy for each of these complex characters? Can we understand the motivations and the choices made? What are the parallels of this novel's setting to today? What are the differences? Bring your voice and see where the discussion goes.

Membership and Fellowship Commission Report

By Carolyn Dick

Activities under the Membership Commission have been many since our March 2018 Reporting.

Membership

- ♦ **Welcome bags for Easter.** Mary Slaby prepped and placed for Sunday many Welcome bags for visitors at Sunday services. They have information about Saint James, St. James' Episcopal Church, and the *Day By Day* publication, among other treats.
- ♦ **Follow-up to Newcomers' Gathering.** We had an enjoyable and successful newcomer's gathering in June. It's important that we stay connected to our new friends in the coming months—especially as we enter the summer absentee season. Lindsey is planning to contact them via email to let them know of the events we have upcoming.
- ♦ **Name Tags update.** Carolyn and Rev. Meredith are still working out rearranging the narthex and brainstorming ideas and options for name tag display stand. Another Name Tag tower volunteer to share maintenance would be helpful.
- ♦ **Greeters sign-up.** Sarah Hnatov will organize the sign-up with a sign-up sheet (and Vestry participation). Others will fill in the remaining slots. We hope to formalize the Greeters in a manner akin to the Sunday teams we have for intercessors, LEMs, etc.). It's still to be organized.
- ♦ **"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," Friday, April 20.** The event was very successful with the gathering in the Undercroft.
- ♦ **Newcomers' Education Series – Four Sundays: June 3, 10, 17, and 24.** A four-week series fit between Memorial Day and the start of many summer vacations. We hosted this gathering during the 9:15 a.m. education hour. Rev. Meredith will work on session content and agendas (and let us know how we can

help). While we had a very small turnout, the participants seemed to appreciate the information and gathering. Here is the general series outline:

Session 1: Welcoming the New Class (Meet Your Clergy and Meet Each Other combined)

Session 2: An Introduction to The Episcopal Church

Session 3: Getting to Know St. James' (Meet the Vestry and Meet St. James' combined)

Session 4: Graduate and Get Involved (Get Involved and Breakfast combined)

- ♦ **St. James' Parish Picnic at Cabin John Group Picnic Area, July 22.** (See a photo of this event following this article.)
- ♦ **Hayride and Bonfire at Butler's Orchard.** Booked for Saturday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship

Cheryl Stafford and Jerome Childress (our Sunday sexton) continue in their mission to provide refreshments, supplies, and accommodations for our after-Sunday services Fellowships (coffee hours), and Baptism receptions, Men's Breakfasts, Bible study, Newcomers' Luncheon, and other groups. (Periodically, individual parishioners contribute to the Fellowship edibles as well.)

On a weekly basis (or as needed), Cheryl and Jerome acquire/shop supplies for the after-services Sunday fellowships in addition to many social functions we have at St. James'. Jerome takes linens for laundering as needed.

One concern from Cheryl and Jerome is frequently missing foods from the kitchen irrespective of their St. James' labeling. The two are planning/implementing better ways to secure foods in light of our parish hall being open to parishioners and renters.

Rummage Sale Help Desperately Needed!

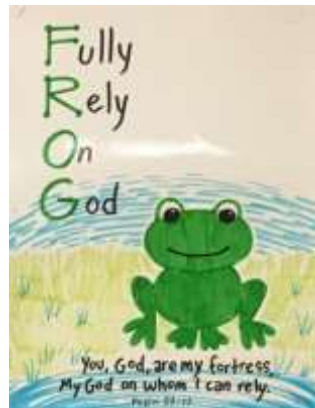
Our Rummage Sale is scheduled to be held on October 12 and 13. We currently do not have enough volunteers to make it happen, especially in a leadership capacity.

If this is something that's meaningful to you, and you can possibly help, please let us know as soon as possible at office@stjamespotomac.org.

If there are enough interested parties, we will meet to discuss how to divide the work and make this sale another success. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



Sunday Morning #SummerCamp



The St. James' Sunday School team is thankful for the many volunteers who have signed up to help with our summer children's program at St. James'. Thanks to Zoe Hall for helping with this recent art project!

Parish Picnic Just Before the Rain



Looming storm clouds didn't stop the fun (at least for a little while!) for the Saint James Day parish picnic at Cabin John Regional Park on June 22.



News from St. James' Children's School

Classroom Spotlight: Spanish Class

By Ms. Vanessa Davila

Teaching the new Spanish program has been very exciting. During the first six months we have worked on Greeting our Friends and Teachers, Identifying Body Parts, Animals, Identifying Family Members, Colors and Numbers.

The new Spanish program is a very fun, energetic program for Twos through Pre-Kindergarten that parallels both English and Spanish to help the children better grasp the language. There are two to three small organized lessons in one 30-minute class. We have one to two "brain breaks" during class where the children play a game or do a physical activity such as "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes" in English and Spanish. Singing is a big part of the Spanish program, since I enjoying singing and finding Spanish songs that help tie in with my lessons.

Our Spanish program is a "plug in" program. Instead of the children leaving their classroom and coming to Spanish, Spanish comes to their classroom. On several occasions, we have also moved the Spanish Class to the Outdoor Classroom near the playground. All of the children very much enjoyed that we were able to be outside with such beautiful scenery.

The best part of being the Spanish Teacher is watching the children learn the language and putting it to use in their free time, such as singing or talking to their classmates on the playground or speaking Spanish at home with their family. I feel fortunate to be doing something that I love so much and greatly enjoy.



St. James' Calendar of Events

Summer Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.:

St. James' Tai Chi, church lower level, all welcome!

Summer Sundays at 10:30 a.m.:

Sunday Morning #SummerCamp @St. James' in the undercroft

August 1, Wednesday:

Visit to Manor Care Nursing Home, 10:30 a.m.

August 8, Wednesday:

Office carpet cleaning; office closed.

August 22, Wednesday:

Carpet cleaning in the parish hall and undercroft

August 26, Sunday:

Book Club, 6:45 p.m.

August 29, Wednesday:

Visit to Potomac Valley Nursing Home, 10:30 a.m.

August 29, Wednesday:

St. James' serving at Shepherd's Table, Silver Spring

September 2, Sunday:

Lay Eucharistic Ministers' meeting with Rector, 11:45 a.m.

September 5, Wednesday:

Visit to Manor Care Nursing Home, 10:30 a.m.

September 9, Rally Sunday Picnic!

September 12, Wednesday:

Visit to Potomac Valley Nursing Home, 10:30 a.m.

September 16, Sunday:

Quarterly State of the Parish meeting, 11:45 a.m.

What's Happenin,' Haiti?

By Harley Venton

Since our congregation's generous response to the fundraising appeal in January to make possible St. James's first mission trip to our sister parish, Bon Samaritain, l'Acul, much, indeed, has been "happenin'."

Ann and I were privileged to spend a week as guests of Bon Samaritain parish members. They were thrilled to meet representatives from St. James' in person and their generous hospitality and Christian grace gave us a glimpse of the shared warmth and spiritual fellowship among Episcopalians worldwide. There is, indeed, "no place like home," but you can find it among brothers and sisters wherever the Episcopal shield resides.

Ann and I reported on our trip to the Missions and Outreach (M&O) Commission, to the vestry, and to an enthusiastic group of parishioners during an adult education forum in March. In August, we'll be sharing some of what we experienced with the Sunday School. We are in the process of planning a Saturday night, family-friendly event with food and music, as well as photos and videos, chronicling St. James's partnership history with Bon Samaritain. It will not be a fundraising event but, rather, a fun, informative celebration, thanksgiving, and appreciation of our parish's fellowship with Bon Samaritain (and, possibly, with some very special guests). So, be on the lookout for that!

During our trip, an immediate and pressing need at Bon Samaritain presented itself: Père Wildaine André, with whom some of you are familiar from his visits to St. James,' lived in a rented house across the road from the school with his ailing mother. Their lease was about to end, and the owner, who wanted to move back into the house, would not renew it. Due to a housing shortage in the immediate area, Père Wildaine was faced with seeking another rental property in a more populated, urban town, which, in addition to being far more expensive, would have added a 30- to 40-minute daily commute each way. Ann



and I asked him what amount it would take to build a habitable rectory incorporating existing, although unfinished, structures on the school grounds. Père Wildaine felt they could be rendered habitable for \$10,000.

So your M&O Commission, with Reverend Meredith advising, undertook to see how we might fund this effort. Working within the existing M&O 2018 budget, we were able to securely wire \$5,000 to Bon Samaritain to allow Père Wildaine to begin construction. Within M&O's current budget, we have made an additional \$2,650 available to send toward the effort. This leaves a shortfall of \$2,350. So, during the month of August, we will be launching a targeted fundraising appeal much like the one we had in January to make the mission trip possible. What was so gratifying and successful about January's effort was the wide participation of so many individuals and families, mainly through modest donations. Once again, if many of us give, even a little, we can easily attain our goal.

As you can see by the photo, construction is well underway and our help will ensure timely completion.

With God's help, I hope to make a quick personal visit to Bon Samaritain—not at parish expense!—in late September to celebrate the joy of the new rectory with Père Wildaine and his parishioners and to bring back an eyewitness account of St. James's participation in fulfilling this vital need. Watch your bulletin inserts and check your News and Notes email for ongoing updates!

Harley Venton