



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



Thoughts from our Rector, The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Before every liturgical season, our Music Director Newton Lewis and I sit down and choose worship music for the upcoming season. Every fall my mind wanders to one of my favorite hymns, “Earth and all Stars,” because it reminds me that each new school year—or each new program year—is an opportunity for something new.

First, I think of our students—whether they are entering preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, Sunday school, or college! This is the time of year when new things begin and students find themselves meeting new teachers, making new friends, encountering new teachings, and perhaps facing new challenges. The hymn paints a picture of the new school year:

*Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, loud cheering people,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
I, too, will praise God
With a new song!*

As we return from summer rest and vacation, we are busy planning for the fall. That’s when another verse of the hymn pops in my head, and I can’t help but think of St. James’—and our new

opportunities to encounter God and grow deeper in our faith in the new program year.

*Knowledge and truth, loud sounding wisdom,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son, loud praying members,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
I, too, will praise God
With a new song!*

From the planning perspective, this time of year can all be very overwhelming. But then this hymn gets stuck in my head, and I find myself humming the last two lines over and over again. And I remember...

*God has done marvelous things.
I, too, will praise God
With a new song!*

In these busy times it is easy to forget that God is doing marvelous things—all of the time. As we begin the new program year, my prayer is that we take the time to notice these things that God is doing—and delight in them—with a new song!

May God bless each of you this year, and always.

—Rev. Meredith

Welcome back!

As we enter a new program year at St. James', join us and discover the many ways to connect with God and with one another!

- Men are invited to the Men's Cookout on Friday, September 7!
- Sunday School begins on Rally Day, September 9!
- Join us after the 10:30 service on Rally Day for our annual Rally Day picnic, co-sponsored by the St. James' Children's School! Come enjoy the food, fellowship, and fun!
- Join adults at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall meeting room for a preview of our upcoming FaithTalk series on the care of God's creation. Childcare provided.
- On September 13 our weekday bible study resumes, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. We'll be using Rachel Held Evans's book, *Inspired*, to

explore deeply how to apply scripture to our lives.

- Our next quarterly State of the Parish Address will be on September 16. Come for a discernment update; learn about our stewardship plans; meet our seminarian and find out how you can get involved.
- Women gather on September 21 for a Movie Night. Come for a viewing and discussion about the movie *Arranged*, a film exploring how two women from different backgrounds come together over a shared challenge.

You will find descriptions and details about these events throughout this newsletter. Please also see the weekly News and Notes message (in your email or on the St. James' website, www.stjamepotomac.org) for the latest and greatest.

We invite you to be part of the excitement at St. James'! Come and connect!



Sunday, September 9

At noon on church back lawn

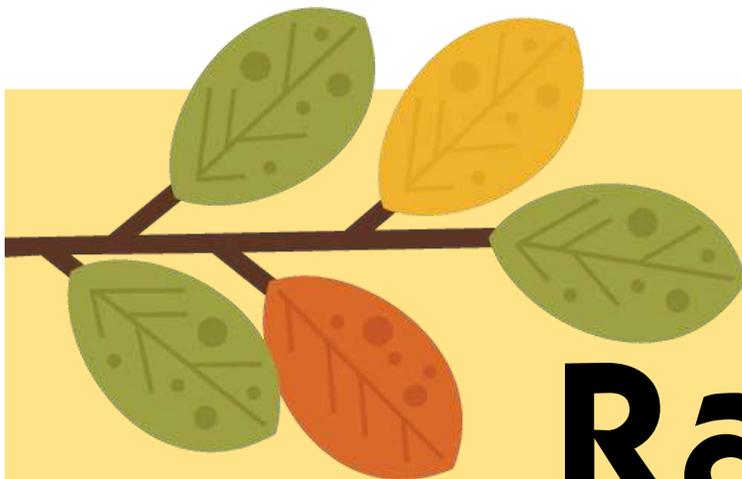
Rally Day

Fun and games! BBQ picnic!

Sponsored by St. James' Children's, Youth, and Fellowship ministries, in cooperation with St. James' Children's School

With Blessing of the Bags!

Celebrate the beginning of Sunday school and the start of a new program year. Bring your backpack, briefcase, purse, and other totes for a back-to-school blessing.



Fall Spiritual Formation Program Begins Sunday, September 9

Living Into the Way of Love Practice Two: Learning

St. James' offers Sunday morning spiritual formation, *FaithTalk*, from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m., between services, in the parish hall meeting room. We begin our new program year on Rally Day, September 9, with "FaithTalk 101," followed by "Meet our Seminarian" on September 16.

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.

Faithful Technology: Cyber security 101

Come to hear basic steps we can all take to keep ourselves mostly safe online, presented by Marshall Finch, MCSE, System Administrator for ADNET Systems Inc. at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. There will be time for discussion each week. Here's a preview: patch, passwords, backups!

Advent Series: Breathing Underwater

In Advent we will explore parallels between the spiritual journey and the framework of twelve-step recovery. Our basic text will be *Breathing Underwater* by Richard Rohr, O.S.F. (If you would like to order a copy, contact Ann Venton at ann.venton@yahoo.com.)

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 use Rachel Held Evans's book *Inspired* to spark a conversation about what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. Contact Rev. Meredith at the office (office@stjamespotomac.org) for information on how to obtain a copy of the book.

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

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.

Faith Talk Calendar (Sundays at 9:15 a.m.)

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



Reflection from our Junior Warden, Sarah Hnatov

Through Challenge Came Blessings

As you may or may not know, my husband, Matt, was diagnosed with a benign brain tumor late in the spring and referred to a surgeon for consultation.

Wow! That changed everything we had planned for the summer and left us facing challenges we didn't even know we had. Yet, as we faced this health challenge, we also came to realize feelings of calm and confidence knowing that ultimately, this was all in God's hands. And through this challenge, we also found blessings in God's grace.

After receiving the diagnosis, we used the next weeks to prepare as best we could. Matt and I read everything we could find on brain tumors, treatments, and the latest research findings. We met with a surgeon who helped us consider available options and outline a plan of care. We made financial arrangements, got our paperwork in order, and discussed the situation with our children, my parents, our families, employers, and friends so everyone could ready themselves for the surgery to follow.

Beyond that, no one really knew what to expect. We were told what to expect and knew from others what they had experienced in similar circumstances but that was it. The rest was to unfold according to God's plans. As the days and weeks went by, it was the blessings that emerged which I most want to share with you.

We were referred to a surgeon who is among the best in his field. In addition to his knowledge and expertise, we found him to be kind. He took the time to understand the person facing this procedure, offered words of confidence and support, and carefully prepared himself, his medical team, Matt, me, and our children for the surgery. We were truly blessed by the quality of medical care provided and also the kindness and compassion of the doctors, nurses, administration, and all members of the hospital support staff

shown to us. The surgery went well, and Matt's recovery has continued to proceed well.

We were blessed by the loving concern of family, friends, and colleagues including our clergy, St. James' staff and vestry members, and so many people from St. James who have cared for us. We truly appreciated the telephone calls, emails, cards, and text messages. Even a few words—to offer hope, help us find some humor, or just saying hello—really mattered. Thank you for reminding us that we are not in this life alone. Thank you for asking how we were doing and letting us know that you cared. In so doing, you also reminded us that God loves us; each one of us.

Through this challenge, we have been reminded of the solace found in holding the hand of one you love, the comfort that comes from a hot meal prepared or groceries delivered by someone who cares, and the friendship offered in a smile and a few kind words as we pass. Thank you for caring about us. Thank you for taking care of us.

We are thankful for the time and opportunities that lie ahead for our family and this community. Moreover, as I pray for continued healing and strength for Matt, we also pray for the wisdom to use the lessons learned through this challenge in service to God. We have been blessed by the grace of God and for that we are thankful.

NOTE: If you have a story of healing to share, please contact the church office, office@stjamespotomac.org or 301-762-8040.

State of the Parish Address, Sunday, September 16

*Christ, Communication, and Coffee
with Rev. Meredith*



Please join us in the parish hall after the 10:30 service to catch up on celebrations, goings-on, and daily church life. The spiritual and financial health of the parish will also be reviewed.

Come More Fully to St. James' — Bring Your Hearts, Share Your Treasure

Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. If this is true (and we believe that it is), that means that a way for you to come more fully to St. James' is to increase your level of giving in proportion to your income.

You'll hear more about this from mid-September through October as we engage in our 2019 annual giving pledge campaign. It will include speakers, articles, a letter, and contact from either a member of the vestry or clergy. And watch for the pledge

forms that will be emailed and mailed to you on October 1.

In the meantime, we invite you to reflect on how great God is, and how wonderful it is to be a part of a special community that revolves around our relationship with God and each other. Listen to how you are being invited deeper into those relationships and the life of the congregation. And consider how generously you will respond in 2019 to that love by sharing your treasure with St. James' so that we may faithfully serve Christ together.

Planned Giving at St. James'

Several years ago, St. James' established a planned giving program. The planned giving program encourages sharing accumulated assets with our church, either while living or as part of one's estate. These are gifts in thanksgiving for the God-given bounty of our lives. It is time to refresh our memories and encourage responses.

Planned giving is broadly recognized as a benefit to the donor and to the church. It provides for a personal legacy in whatever way the donor wishes, and strengthens the ministry and mission of the church now and in the future.

There are many opportunities for planned gifts at St. James'. Gifts may be given during one's lifetime or may be pledged for the future. Such gifts may be designated for a specific use or undesignated, to be used at the discretion of the vestry. Uses of interest to donors might include ongoing programs central to the life of the church, outreach, facilities maintenance and construction, and endowment.

Discernment under way this year could lead to a large outreach program at our church. Effective outreach programs require commitment of time and talent from many members, but also funding to help meet the needs of others. Planned gifts could make an exciting program possible.

Our aging facilities are requiring major improvements now, including a new church roof, replacement of church air conditioning, a new parish hall ramp, exterior painting, and concrete

repairs. Planned gifts for church maintenance would help to preserve our facilities for the future.

A facilities vision process was undertaken at St. James' a few years ago, including feedback from all areas of parish life. Prominent among needs and opportunities emphasized then were the addition of rest rooms convenient to the nave, a lift or elevator to connect our floors, and a possible connecting building to facilitate passage to the parish hall a renovation of the undercroft, and for the school, expanded classroom space to include children with special needs. Such construction could be accomplished with major planned gifts, as the cost is likely to approach two million dollars.

Undesignated reserve funds can be a blessing when unexpected needs and opportunities arise. In the case of emergencies, we could be prepared to meet them. These might require large or small expenditures. They could be made possible by use of available funds from planned gifts.

Everyone is encouraged to give prayerful consideration to making a planned gift to St. James' at this time. Begin perhaps with provision in your will that 5% of your estate will pass to our church for designated or undesignated purposes. Many of you could do more, and may want to do it while you can observe the benefit and even participate in the process made possible. Use the following response form or contact Rev. Meredith with any questions and to discuss any ideas. We are grateful that you are considering a gift to St. James'!



**St. James' Episcopal Church
Planned Giving Response Form**

Planned Giving at St. James'

In thanksgiving for all the blessings received from God, and in gratitude for the support of my church home, I/we are interested in: (please mark all that apply)

- Making a planned gift in our lifetime
- Making a planned gift through a will as part of estate planning
- Gift might be designated for _____
- Gift might be undesignated
- Use of gift to be discussed

- In order to proceed:***
- Please contact me by phone to answer questions.
 - Please call me to make an appointment.
 - I/We will contact my/our lawyer to make arrangements, and will provide confirmation to the church.

End of Life Planning

Every one of all ages is encouraged to have legal documents clearly stating his/her wishes regarding power of attorney, medical procedures, a will outlining plans for end of life including disposition of assets, and a document on file at church for final services. Some years ago, St. James' arranged for speakers to help guide our members in this process.

Please let us know:

- I/We are interested in hearing speakers regarding planning for the future.
- I/We have completed our legal documents, updated within 10 years.
- I/We are interested in attending a workshop on arrangements for final services.

Name _____ Phone/email: _____

Name _____ Phone/email: _____

Please return this form to the church as soon as possible:

**St. James' Episcopal Church
Planned Giving/End of Life Planning
11815 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854**

Children's Ministries—SummerCamp and Sunday School

Sunday #SummerCamp: Looking Back

We had a fun, relaxed summer at Sunday #SummerCamp. Each week, during the 10:30 service, we had a short chapel service with a bible reading, a song and prayers followed by one or two fun, creative, and/or educational activities. Thanks to our guest camp leaders who volunteered to lead activities, including:

- Andy Mason - bible quiz contest
- Barry Thompson - pollinators
- Marisol Castro - t-shirts
- Andy Mason - carnival
- Zoe Hall - love pins
- Barry Thompson - butterflies
- John Combs - gardening
- Sarah & Christina Hnatov - Crayon life
- Tracy Forrest - slime
- Ann & Harley Venton - Haiti fun
- Emily Roegner - Skittles rainbows

And very special thanks to regular Sunday School volunteers Emily Roegner and Maureen Schiavone who also assisted with Sunday #SummerCamp.

Sunday School — Looking Forward

Important Dates:

- September 9: First day of the 2018-2019 Sunday School year & Rally Sunday
- September 23: Parents' meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service
- October 13: Hayride and bonfire
- October 28: Children's Sabbath

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Sunday, September 9, for a new year that will be filled with lots of new opportunities grounded on the three pillars of St. James' Children's Ministries Program: (a) **Learning** the foundations of Christian traditions and practices of the Episcopal Church as an expression of our faith; (b) **Belonging** to a caring, encouraging

community; and (c) **Sharing** a loving concern for each other and all of God's creation (people, planet, animals).

Childcare begins each week at 9:15 a.m. with our longtime babysitters caring for infants and toddlers in the nursery and activities for older children in the undercroft. Let us know if you plan to attend or just show up and join the fun.

Sunday school begins at 10:30 a.m., but you are invited to come early for "Gathering Time" from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. As children arrive, they are invited to enjoy a few minutes of fun and fellowship with friends before our program begins each week. We start off with Children's Chapel at 10:35 and follow with class time organized by age/grade for children from preschool through sixth grade.

The *Episcopal Children's Curriculum*, a thematic Sunday school curriculum tied to the seasons of the church year, will guide instruction. It was developed by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary, and is highly recommended by parents, teachers, and clergy. Information and resources for use at home are available at:

<https://www.vts.edu/page/center-for-the-ministry-of-teaching/publications/episcopal-childrens-curriculum>. This year, we will be following the Chalice Year curriculum.

Watch for more information soon and please plan to join us for an **informational meeting** to learn more about Sunday school and Children's Ministries at St. James' on Sunday, **September 23** after the 10:30 service, or contact SundaySchool@stJamesPotomac.org.

We have a fantastic bunch of children at St. James', and we are looking forward to a great year of fun, fellowship and learning.

Blessings,

Marisol Castro and Andy Mason
St. James' Sunday School Co-Directors

Vestry Highlights

Meeting of August 21, 2018

The Vestry met on August 21, 2018, with Rev. Meredith presiding.

Isabelle Schuessler reflected on the blessings of “community”—family, professional, and religious—and how to build upon the strong community we have at St. James’, while listening for God’s guidance on purpose and faith. Prayers were offered for family, friends, and colleagues.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, with a modified report from Membership/ Fellowship Commission to be appended to the July minutes.

The Treasurer reported finances to show “a strikingly positive result at this point in the year.” Pledge, plate, and envelope income is ahead of projections. Fellowship and fundraising revenues also are higher than projected. The annual professional audit is underway, to be completed in September. The Facilities Improvement Fund, supported by “estate sales,” steadily continues to grow (through the efforts of Don and Isabelle Schuessler and their small team of helpers).

Encouraged are donations for flowers for the church, as there are numerous “open” Sundays available for parishioners to adopt.

The mission to Le Bon Samaritain, L’Acul, was reviewed. The renovation and completion of the new rectory for Pere Wildaine have been accomplished, supported by a commitment of \$10,000 from St. James’. Half of the money has been delivered. The remainder will be forwarded, after the successful “Special August Appeal.” Thanks be to our generous parishioners!

Reverend Meredith provided an update on the engineering consultant process, with focus on church roof and parish hall ramp. Consultant Ben Dutton’s second report is awaited. Various means by which to cover these urgent projects are being explored. She outlined aspects of a future Capital Campaign, including consultants, costs, reports on recent campaigns at local parishes, and appointment of a committee at St. James’. Rev. Meredith also updated the vestry on the discernment process—listening to God through

the perspectives of parishioners. On August 22 the clergy will review the answers to questions posed in the latest phase received from parishioners.

Reverend James reminded all that pledges from vestry members for next year are expected by month’s end. Clergy and vestry members already have pledged \$70,000. The Stewardship Campaign will kick off on September 16. As was done last year, clergy and vestry members will contact parishioners.

Senior Warden (the Junior Warden was unable to attend the meeting) reported that the Board of Directors of the St. James’ Children’s School (SJCS) has approved a plan for recognition of longevity of service for staff members. Details will be sent to vestry members by email, so that their consideration/anticipated approval can be obtained in a timely fashion.

The SJCS Parents Handbook has been revised and updated and will be reviewed by Brad McCullough or member(s) of his staff at Lerch, Early for legal sufficiency.

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has begun accepting girls as members of the Cub Scouts. Pack 1306 at St. James’ will address this option, if applications are received, and will seek female Den Leaders, as appropriate. The Rector and Senior Warden consider this a BSA matter and an informational item for the vestry.

Facilities issues (water intrusion into the Children’s Chapel and hall in the undercroft, mud in the porte cochere, and standing water between SJCS and Beth Sholom synagogue) were discussed. Isabelle Schuessler, chair of Facilities, outlined the possible solutions for the undefined source of water coming into the undercroft. Relocation of the drain from the downspout near the choir door may be necessary.

As additional help is needed but not forthcoming from within the parish, hiring a firm to do weeding on the property is being considered.

Continued on next page

Vestry Highlights, continued

Adult Education Report

Reverend Meredith announced an exciting new program for Faith Talks at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays, commencing on Rally Sunday, September 9. On the 16th, our new seminarian will be introduced. Starting on September 23 will be a six-weeks course, "The Care of Creation," using *The Green Bible* as the resource. On November 4, 11, and 18 the topic will be "Faithful Technology; Cybersecurity 101." During Advent, the basic text will be *Breathing Underwater*, exploring parallels between the spiritual journey and the framework of twelve-step recovery. Thursday morning Bible Study will resume September 13, using Rachel Evans's book *Inspired*.

Missions and Outreach Report

In the absence of the liaison, Ken Van Valkenburgh, Harley Venton spoke of organization and possible reorganization of the Commission and responsibilities. He referred members to the financial report on Haiti, included in the Treasurer's Report. Carolyn Dick asked that parishioners be provided a better understanding of commission plans and activities, so as to

increase awareness and support. Vestry members concurred.

Pastoral Care Report

Reverend Meredith mentioned the impending revision of our pastoral care ministry as described in the "A-Z" book on church activities and further opportunities for pastoral service.

Coming Events (among many)

- Men of St. James' Cookout, September 7, back lot of the church, starting at 5:30 p.m. All are invited. Bring something to grill and a beverage of your choice (no hard liquor, please). Chips, sides, condiments provided.
- Rally Sunday, September 9, Picnic after the 10:30 service in the area of the SJCS.
- State of the Parish address, September 16, after the 10:30 service in the parish hall.
- Stewardship Campaign kickoff, September 16.
- "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" women's movie night, September 21, undercroft.

Barry Thompson, Senior Warden

Annual Parish Meeting: November 19

Fellow parishioners – our summer is winding down and the quiet time is giving way to a lot of activity for the fall. As a reminder, our **2018 Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2018** in the parish hall. We welcome all to attend, and anyone who wishes to vote on any presented topics must satisfy the following **Eligibility to Vote at Meetings of the Parish:**

- A. Members of the Church in good standing as defined in Canon I. 17, Sec. 1, of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church;
- B. At least 16 years of age, when not prohibited by public law;
- C. Contributors of record to the Parish during the 12 months preceding the meeting (with any recorded contribution of time, treasure, or talent serving to meet this requirement, with any question of fulfillment being decided by the majority of the Vestry present); and
- D. Enrolled as voting members of St. James' Parish at least one month prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about your eligibility please contact the office, office@stjamespotomac.org or 301-762-8040.

Nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates

A Vestry Nominating Committee for the Class of 2019 is comprised of Katherine Weaver, Dawn Iype, Brad McCullough, Amy Metcalf, and Mary Slaby. The committee is currently seeking self-nominations. If you wish to know more about serving St. James' in a vestry position or as a Diocesan Delegate, they are happy to provide more information. Always feel free to contact any current Vestry member, officer, or Rev. Meredith and Rev. James.

Sunday School Close-Up -- Emily Roegner

by Holly Mulderig

This is the first of a series of Pilgrim articles where we'll take a closer look at the folks who make our Sunday School happen! We chatted briefly with Emily Roegner (a cradle St. James-er!)

Emily has been a St. James' member "all my life ... my parents raised me at St. James." Robin and Tom Roegner were married at St. James'. Emily was baptized and confirmed at St. James, and began helping out in Sunday School back in the early 2000s after she was confirmed.

Emily has helped out in all different grades at the Sunday School, most notably preschool through second grade. Emily enjoys working alongside the Church staff and clergy, the Sunday

School team ... but most of all, "watching the children grow up."

In the year ahead, Emily notes, "I am looking forward to continuing to get more experience working with the Sunday School Children since it relates to my field of interest in Early Childhood Education."

Folks, say hi and thanks to Emily, for all she does!



Backpack Drive 2018—Thank You!



Thanks to all who helped fill 75 backpacks with school supplies on July 27! There were very exuberant kids and adults who filled multiple backpacks. Once the supplies were skillfully placed on the tables by Jerome Childress, the stuffing went quite quickly.

Grace Lo helped to transport the supplies from the attic to the parish hall. Bill Wallace arranged for backpacks to be picked up by Interfaith Works. The Weavers did the shopping and arranged the inventory. A special thanks to Kirsten Hall for providing assistance in purchasing the backpacks this year.

The backpack supplies are purchased with funds with previous year's donations. So thank you also to those who contributed financially or with in-kind donations.

St. James' is currently collecting financial donations for the 2019 backpack drive. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church with "M&O backpack drive" noted in the memo line.

Thanks again for providing supplies for local families in need!



Bon Samaritain Rectory Complete!

The Missions and Outreach Commission (M & O) is thrilled to report that, due to St. James' ongoing and heartfelt support, our sister congregation, Bon Samaritain, l'Acul, now has its own rectory on the parish property! (see photo) The presiding priest, our dear friend, Père Wildaine André and his mother took occupancy on Friday, August 24.

This initiative was born of the St. James' inaugural mission trip to Haiti in February of this year. As your Missioners, my wife, Ann, and I were blessed and privileged to make our parish's first, in-person contact.

Among the many things we learned was that Father Wildaine and his mother were living in a rental property adjacent the Bon Samaritain property and were about to lose their lease. It seemed to make sense for Bon Samaritain to have its own rectory. Father Wildaine felt that a modest residence could be built for \$10,000.00.

So, upon our return from Haiti, we presented our findings to the M & O Commission which undertook to see how we at St. James' could meet this urgent and practical need. From the existing budget the commission was able to securely wire an initial \$5,000.00 in June so that construction could proceed. With \$2,650.00 remaining in the M&O budget we came to all of you with an August-only appeal to raise the remaining \$2,350.00 to meet the overall \$10,000.00 goal. And even during this sleepy, summertime month, our congregation came through! And while I can report that there were a few incredibly generous individual donations, the bulk of the funds raised were from modest contributions of \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20. Consequently we will be able to wire the remaining \$5,000.00 to Bon Samaritain so that the parish can compensate their building materials suppliers.

Housing security is a basic human need. Your support relieves Bon Samaritain and Père Wildaine of the expensive, time-consuming, and stressful process of securing such housing, not only for the current occupant but for priests at Bon Samaritain for years to come.

I hope to make a personal visit to Haiti sometime in October to share the joy of this



accomplishment with our sisters and brothers in l'Acul. I intend to take a lively personal video of our Sunday Schoolers singing "Jesus Loves Me" in English to their counterparts at Bon Samaritain and return with the Creole version for us to learn.

Let us all rejoice and praise God that His Holy Spirit moved among us to bless us with this far-flung fellowship. And it should be noted that several long-standing members of our St. James' community were instrumental in fostering this ministry.

While John and Mary Miers brought our involvement in this mission to our attention following the 2010 earthquake, they found insightful support from Isabelle and Don Schuessler, who had made several visits to Haiti under Isabelle's association with the Washington Episcopal School. Bill Wallace, our current M&O chair, has enthusiastically supported this work. Jack Linehan has been invaluable in gathering information crucial to educate us all and he and his family have, on several occasions, hosted Père Wildaine in their home during his visits to the United States. Alice and Jerry Morrison, Grace Huff, our clergy the Rev. Meredith and Rev. James, have all given guidance and support. Our Parish Treasurer, Tracy Lively, our Parish Administrator Grace and our teams of tellers led by Jane Lorenz have all given generously of their time to facilitate the endeavor.

It is our intention to host a festive and informative evening with food and music and videos perhaps as early as November. It will not be another fundraiser, but rather a joyous, prayerful celebration of St. James' partnership with Bon Samaritain. And, God willing, we may even have some special guests.

Harley Venton



Youth Group Returns September 16!

Students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to join the youth group! We meet most Sundays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Just \$3 covers the cost of dinner! Friends are always welcome as we play games, watch movies, complete service projects, hang out, and have fun. High school-only events include a monthly dinner out, as well as an annual work-camp, mission trip to rebuild homes for disadvantaged residents around the country.

The June 2019 mission trip will take our group to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and is open to rising ninth graders and up! See Ms. Rachele for more information, rachele_donnelly@yahoo.com.

Youth and families, please join our parish and get to know Ms. Rachele and other youth at our parish-wide picnic on Sunday, September 9. Youth group will officially start back on Sunday, September 16, with an exciting evening of games, dinner, and information for 2019's youth mission trip. We will meet in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. Bring \$3 for dinner.

News from St. James' Children's School

Classroom Spotlight: The Infants Room

By Jennifer Morales

Hello! I'm Jennifer, the new Lead Teacher in the Infants room. After having a wonderful experience in the Toddlers room for the past year, I am excited to be with the infants. I have an AAT in Early Childhood Education, am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and have over twelve years of experience working with children. I truly have a passion for children and look forward to the new school year as Lead Teacher in the Infants room.



We are currently getting to know each child and help each one to get to know us. Our topic for the month of September consists of "Who am I?" and "My Family." We have had the privilege to post a family tree in our classroom to display photos of our families to make the children feel more comfortable and at home. We have also been enjoying making art projects using the children's hands and feet. These special pieces of art will become cherished reminders of each child's first days of school. It has been a great start to our school year and we look forward to the rest of the year!



Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 6, 4:00 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.



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun (at church)!

Women's Movie Night!
Friday, September 21, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Ladies—Join us in the undercroft (church lower level) to watch a movie, eat, and discuss!

We'll be seeing **Arranged**: A movie about two women who come from different perspectives and backgrounds, and bond over commonalities. The story shows how friendship, faith, and love can grow when we open our hearts and minds.



Come as you are—straight from work, in jeans, or in pajamas. Anything goes!

Please bring your favorite beverage and/or snack to share. You may also wish to bring a cushion or other sit-upon to augment our lovely church folding chairs while you watch the movie.

RSVPs appreciated but not required to:
welcome@stjamespotomac.org

We hope to see you there!



Book Club, September 23

Less by Andrew Sean Greer is the book to be discussed September 23, Sunday evening at 6:45 p.m. in the parish hall. This book was well reviewed by most, panned by a few, yet won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for 2018. A comedic book is an unusual choice for a Pulitzer. Who is Arthur Less in the book? A non-noteworthy novelist about to turn 50, he gets an invitation to a wedding—of his ex-boyfriend, to someone else. To avoid this awkward situation, Less accepts all the invitations he gets to participate in obscure literary seminars, lectures, and awards, taking him all over the world. What does he discover about himself, about aging, about what gives meaning to one's life?

As one reviewer stated, "This book delivers some worthwhile insights and some great ideas for living a more interesting life." Part travelogue, part adventure, part misadventure, told with humor that pokes fun at the literary world and business, this book promises to stimulate another lively and companionable discussion. All are welcome to this approximately 90-minute discussion.

October 28's book selection is *Sula* by Toni Morrison. For November 25, the choice is Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*. Suggestions for interesting, engaging books are always welcome. Feel free to drop in; the group will be in either the parish hall meeting room or, the library, depending on other groups' activities. See you there!

Men of St. James' COOKOUT



**Friday, September 7, 5:30 p.m.
in the lower/ back parking lot**

- Bring something to grill and the beverage of your choice (no hard liquor, please)
- Sides, chips, and condiments provided

Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, October 2

What to Buy? Which to Choose? Surprise!

For a hands-on opportunity to learn how the Nutrition Facts Label can help you make the best possible food choices for your health, join us Tuesday, October 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the undercroft. How do you know which information important to you is misleading or absent altogether? Thu Huynh, in-store nutritionist at a Giant grocery in Rockville, will present "Label Reading for Health." Thu, a vivacious presenter (heard by this writer), will be able to discuss many concerns and questions about how choices you make in the store can affect your health. Weight control, cholesterol levels, blood pressure management, and **your** questions—come and inquire.

To make a reservation for the \$10 lunch, please contact Sarah Padgett. The schedule for the day is: social time at 11:30, lunch at noon, and the program from 12:30 p.m. until about 1:30. All are welcome for this mostly seniors' group of parishioners, friends, neighbors, and newcomers. If transportation is an issue, please contact the church office, office@stjamespotomac.org or 301-762-8040.

Fall Rummage Sale, October! Sign up Now Online to Help

Fall Rummage Sale October 12 and 13

Please volunteer to help by using the electronic sign-up in your email or this link:

[Rummage Sale Sign-up](#)

or contact the office, office@stjamespotomac.org. Donations, including money, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



Food Waste Mindfulness

Ample Harvest is working hard to make everyone mindful of the implications of food waste. Food Waste is the unfortunately poor term we use to discuss all of the edible and wholesome food that is never consumed. The waste of food is a problem that starts at the farm and ends on our tables. This is not rotting or unattractive food as the term suggests. Rather, it is food that the farmer was unable to harvest, the grocery store chose not to sell, the food you throw out because the date on the packaging leads you to think that it's no longer healthy to eat, the excess food in your garden that has overwhelmed you, the supersized portions of food served in restaurants, the three-day old bread the market throws away when the next shipment comes in, and a lot more.

As Christians we know that we are called to care for others as well as our planet. Food waste contributes to hunger and malnutrition, exacerbates diet related diseases such as Type II diabetes and obesity, wastes energy, increases the waste stream and climate change, impacts your taxes, and can even impact national security—all because we have not been using the food we have.

With all this in mind, Ample Harvest is asking us to focus on this issue of food waster during the month of September. As individuals and as a community, what can we do?

- Keep track of the food you waste each week. Note what you didn't eat, why you didn't eat it, and how much it cost. Just tracking what we waste can help us understand how a little food waste adds up. Focus on small plates and portion sizes.
- Learn how to store produce for maximum shelf life, Examples include: taking bananas out of plastic bags, storing apples in the fridge, buying green peppers (as opposed to red or orange) which last longer than the others, and not hiding your veggies in the drawers, so you actually see and eat them! Go to savethefood.com for other ideas.
- Learn about the confusing expiration dates you see on food products. Most of them are "just suggestions." Go to notreallyexpired.com for more information.
- Donate surplus produce from your own garden to a nearby food pantry. Food waste and hunger coexist in every community.
- Learn and get involved! Maybe we could even do something here at St. James' similar to what our Youth Group did when they went gleaned last year!

Ample Harvest (www.ampleharvest.org) is a nationwide non-profit that is working to end the waste of food—especially locally grown fresh food by helping America's 42 million home and community gardeners donate their excess garden produce to more than 8,000 nearby food pantries. Ample Harvest is not a food program per se, but is a unique nationwide resource that is eliminating the waste of food, the outcome being a reduction in hunger and malnutrition along with an improved environment.

Calendar of Events

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.: FaithTalk adult spiritual formation, parish hall meeting room

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.: Sunday School with childcare

September 7, Friday: Men's Cookout, 5:30 p.m.

September 9, Sunday: Rally Day Picnic! Noon

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.

September 21, Friday: Girls Just Wanna Have Fun: Women's Movie Night, 7:00 p.m.

September 23, Sunday:

Sunday School parents' meeting, 11:45 a.m.

Book Club, 6:45 p.m.

September 30, Sunday: Acolyte meeting, 11:45 a.m.

October 2, Tuesday: Lunch & Learn, 11:30 a.m.

October 6, Saturday: Blessing of the Animals Service, 4:00 p.m.

October 12-13: Fall Rummage Sale!

October 13, Saturday: Hayride and Bonfire, 6:30 p.m.

October 28, Sunday: Children's Sabbath, 10:30 a.m.

St. James' Fourth Annual Family Hayride and Bonfire



**At Butler's Orchard
Saturday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m.**

Sign up now!

Reserve your spot by signing up at tinyurl.com/STJhayride5.

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 6:30 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! We will board our wagons promptly 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.*

