



St. James' Episcopal Church 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854-3340 [www.stjamespotomac.org](http://www.stjamespotomac.org)



## Thoughts from our Assistant Rector, The Rev. James S. Isaacs

### *Where's Your Heart?*

In this month's reflection, I want to reiterate and elaborate on what I shared during the announcements at a previous service.

For quite a while now, I have maintained the spiritual practice of tithing—offering 10 percent of my income to the church. It has been a very meaningful and rewarding discipline in my life. In a counter-intuitive way, I have found that I worry less about money, partially because tithing tends to reorient my relationship to money (from seeing it as my own with choices about where I want to use it to seeing the money as a gift of God, for which I have stewardship).

Yet, donating money to the place where you work is also strange in some ways. I get compensated for my work at St. James', and then I turn around and donate a portion of that money right back to the church. It would be easy to rationalize my way out of donating to the church because of this peculiarity. I have persisted in observing this discipline, and it continues to help my relationship with money. (I think of tithing as like a spiritual vitamin—it helps to strengthen the healthy parts of my spiritual life and builds resiliency toward some vices.) It also has kept St. James' from just being somewhere that I work—I feel personally invested in the community and its well-being.

Last year, the leadership of the parish challenged people who were already pledging to increase their pledge for the next year by \$100/month as they were able. As one of the leaders of the congregation, I felt like it was

important for me to also rise to this challenge, and after discussing it with my wife, we decided to increase our pledge to St. James' by \$100/month.

Jesus said where our money is, there our hearts will be also. My heart had already been invested in St. James'. Yet when I increased my pledge, I found that my relationship with St. James' deepened. I wasn't just supporting the health and vitality of the congregation and helping to make its ministry a success; I felt even more a part of St. James'. In a more profound way, I felt a part of this community.

I wasn't the only person who rose to this challenge. Many people in the congregation increased their pledges to St. James'. And I think the current energy, enthusiasm, joy, and vitality of the congregation is, in part, due to people investing more of their money (and therefore hearts) in St. James'.

2019 pledge forms are being mailed out to parishioners. If you don't receive one the first week of October, please let us know so we can make sure we have your correct address and can get one to you. You can also go on our parish website ([www.stjamespotomac.org](http://www.stjamespotomac.org)) to make a pledge. Remember that Jesus said where our money is, there our hearts will be also. Come more fully to St. James' by pledging, and if you are able, consider increasing your pledge. I have found it to be very meaningful.

Thank you for welcoming me deeper into the community. It is a pleasure to serve God with you at St. James'.

In Christ,  
*James*



## Reflection from our Youth Director, Rachele Donnelly

### Wilmington, On My Mind

In June 2017, I had the pleasure to lead our group of 10 teenagers and four adults on a work camp mission trip to Wilmington. As is typical, our mission trip partner

organization, Group Mission Trips, did a wonderful job of selecting homeowners truly in need.

For five days, our group painted, repaired drywall, replaced flooring and completed various other projects for residents that had neither the financial means, nor the physical ability to improve their surroundings. As we had encountered with prior trips, the homes were in desperate need of TLC. The owners simply could not afford even basic materials. While you and I might not think twice about replacing a \$25 exterior door lock, for these homeowners that might mean the difference in the amount of groceries they can afford.

Weatherproofing, improving security, and repairing large drywall holes were priorities. For those we served, a fresh coat of paint was nice, but the peace of mind provided by a working door lock was priceless. Weatherproofing and fixing holes were critical to surviving the summer temperatures.

Over the past few weeks, Hurricane Florence resulted in a tidal wave of press for the city of Wilmington. Despite terrible flooding, the storm weakened significantly, resulting in damages far less severe than that which was originally predicted. When most folks evacuated, others were forced to remain out of necessity, or a lack of means. News anchors worked tirelessly to report on the state of the storm. Often the filming took place on the beach, displaying impressive waves and mega-size beach houses, situated safely atop stilts.

Less often shown are the communities that our group served. There the homes are smaller. They are built upon slab foundations. The terrain is flat.

The earth is sandy. Flooding is a real problem. Sandbags are only able to provide so much protection.

After a week or two, depending on the storm's severity, the camera crews depart. For middle- and upper-class residents, the upcoming weeks might be spent filing claims and working with contractors. Life slowly returns to normal. For low-income residents, the process differs dramatically.

Without flood insurance or the money to pay a contractor, many homeowners turn to a modified DIY method. Wet-Vacs clean up the water. Carpet is thrown out. Without the means to do more, many residents are forced to stop at this point. Unfortunately, the situation does not improve. Mold begins to grow. Whether it is due to a lack of resources or just a feeling of helplessness, many of the residents admit to reaching a point where they are simply too overwhelmed to continue. Some folks cover up the issue. Out of sight, out of mind. Others choose to ignore. The decision is not a result of laziness, but of survival.

Watching the flood waters rise, I found myself thinking of the family I served. The house was so flat, the front door was not even raised. They didn't have much before the storm. I could picture the elderly couple using whatever they could to sweep the water out of their home. I imagined the laminate floors we installed. By now they were likely warped and swollen. I wasn't alone with these thoughts: I received several emails and texts over the next few days. Some asked how we might get in touch with our former residents to help. Others expressed sadness over the situation.

Jim Wallis, Christian writer and social activist wrote: "The Bible insists that the best test of a nation's righteousness is how it treats the poorest and most vulnerable in its midst." Hope springs eternal. Eventually the problems will be fixed. Perhaps it will even be because a group of God-loving teenagers stepped in to help.

*Rachele*



## Quarterly State of the Parish Address

From our Rector, The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

We gathered for our third quarterly State of the Parish Address on Sunday, September 16, 2018 to review events of the last quarter, and to look ahead to our future.

After what I hope was a restful summer, I'm delighted to welcome everyone back to a new program year!

I reflected, first, on a conversation I had with our Bishop a few weeks ago. She expressed her excitement that things are going well at St. James'. When I shared that I wasn't sure we were doing enough, she had a good laugh—and reminded me that I have only been serving here for 20 months, and that is barely enough time to, as she put it, "cultivate the soil and to sow many seeds." She said, as busy as we are, the harvest lies ahead.

With Bishop Mariann's words in mind, I look to the next quarter, eager to see what that will look like and to continue cultivating and sowing with you—preparing for the harvest to come.

Since our last parish meeting in June, this is what we've been up to:

- The Youth Group went to Work Camp in Chattanooga, TN.
- The Membership Commission hosted a Summer Newcomer Series.
- Our children participated in our Summer Sunday School.
- The Lunch and Learn group met in July and September.
- Ann Venton led our Sunday Morning Lectionary Based Bible Study.
- We baptized two children into the Body of Christ.
- We welcomed Steve Watkins and heard him share his thoughts on pilgrimage.
- The ushers gathered to discuss welcoming visitors.
- The Lay Eucharistic ministers met to review their responsibilities.
- We used the Book of Common Prayer, forgoing the paper bulletin for the summer, in order to

experience the richness of the BCP (not to mention saving paper).

- The Discernment Process continued.
- We celebrated the Feast of St. James with a parish picnic.
- We stuffed school backpacks for children in need.
- We raised funds to help build a rectory for Père Wildaine in Haiti.
- Our Book Club met.
- We had a Men's Cookout.
- We gathered with families of St. James' Children's School for Rally Day, celebrating the beginning of a new program year and blessing our backpacks and bags.
- And as always, we worshiped the Lord with all our hearts, minds and souls!

After celebrating our busy summer, our finances were reviewed. As the Treasurer's report stated, "We are at a positive place at this midyear time point. This is primarily due to good news on the income side. Pledge, plate and envelope income at this time are nearly \$40,000 ahead of projections, and we received more than \$7,100 from the spring rummage sale, which had not been included in the budget. On the expense side, all major expense categories remain at or below their projections. In the coming months, expenses are expected to catch up with income to the extent that will cause this surplus to dwindle, but if income then rises in December, there is good chance that we may end the year in the black."

### St. James' Finances through July, 2018

	Budget	Actual	Difference
<b>Income</b>	\$460,251	\$491,753	\$31,502
<b>Expenses</b>	\$483,359	\$432,479	\$50,880
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	(\$23,108)	\$59,274	

*These numbers represent St. James' income and expenses through July, 2018. Please contact Rev. Meredith if you have any questions.*

*Continued on next page*

### Quarterly State of the Parish Address, continued from page 3

It was then reported that as far as our facilities are concerned, we are preparing to replace our parish hall ramp, and exploring ways to fund our long-term facility needs. This includes exploring the idea of a capital campaign. Our hope is that we can dream a little—perhaps dovetailing with our discernment process—about how our building might be updated and used for ministries beyond what we are doing now.

Assistant Rector James Isaacs reported on our continuing Discernment Process. The clergy spent a day reviewing and praying over the discernment questionnaire responses, and recognized a few themes that have arisen. We are in the process of testing the most prominent theme, and hope to make an announcement at our Annual Meeting in November.

Also, at the Annual Meeting we will elect new members to the vestry. Parishioners were encouraged to confirm that they are eligible to vote in this election. That information can be obtained through the church office.

This newsletter is full of information about what lies ahead in the coming quarter. Highlights include:

- Welcoming our seminarian, Mary Margaret Winn.
- Our Annual Stewardship Campaign

- The Blessing of the Animals, celebrating the Feast of St. Francis
- The annual Hayride and Bonfire
- The Rummage Sale
- The Celebration of St. James' Children's School 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Our annual Halloween Funfest
- Continuing to praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

As we enter the program year, I encourage you to make an effort to go deeper in your faith, connecting more fully to God's love: participate more, share more, pray together, read scripture together—and keep St. James' in your prayers.

In closing—thank you. Thank you for your involvement, your commitment, your love and your support. May God bless us and keep us—and may God continue to bless St. James', Potomac.

—Rev. Meredith

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Rev. Meredith will be away from October 5, returning to the office on October 18. She is traveling to Spain to continue her spiritual pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. She plans to continue the blog she started when she walked a portion of the pilgrimage in 2016. If you would like to follow along, you can find her at <https://fourwomenwalking.blogspot.com>. Buen Camino!



## The 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.

In case of rain, park in the back lot and we'll gather in the undercroft.

## Candidates for Election at Annual Meeting November 18, 2018

Our annual Parish Meeting will take place in the parish hall at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 18, immediately after the 8:00 worship service. Breakfast will be served and we invite all parishioners to attend. Our leadership and committees will provide updates on our many ministries and activities in review, as well as exciting new ideas and programs for 2019.

The 2018 Vestry slate will be presented for vote. All parishioners over the age of 16 in good standing whose records have been established in, or transferred to, St. James' may vote in the election. Others, including students in middle school and beyond, are invited to attend.

The following slate of candidates approved by the Vestry are listed below in accordance with the St. James' bylaws.

### Running for a second two-year term:

Barry Thompson, Senior Warden  
James Beebe  
Holly Mulderig

### Running for first two-year term:

Anselm Hennis  
Wendy Hicks  
Lindsay Ragheb  
Carolyn Ragland

### Continuing to second year of term:

Sarah Hnatov, Junior Warden  
Dawn Iype  
Lori Minasian  
Joyce Nohowel  
Sandy Soundararajan  
Ken Van Valkenburgh  
Harley Venton

### Diocesan Delegates and Alternates:

Dan Zimmerman, continuing for one year  
Katherine Weaver, running for office  
Pat East, one-year term  
Mary Miers, one-year term

The Bylaws provide that delegates may serve for two or four years. Alternates must be elected annually.

Nominations, including self-nominations, may be submitted with the consent of the nominee, accompanied by 10 signatures, up until 14 days before the election (November 4).

Absentee ballots are available from the parish Registrar Scott Zimmerman, or the parish office beginning November 8, to be returned by 12:00 noon on November 16.

Thanks to all who have served faithfully and are moving to other good works: Carolyn Dick, John Eisold, Isabelle Schuessler, and Len Whistler.

## We Love Because God First Loved Us: Sharing God's Love with One Another

If you or a member of your family are in need of meals, rides, or other support that could be provided by our parish, please contact the church office or a member of your vestry so we can get you the help that you need. Likewise, if you have time or skills to offer, please let us know so we can call you as needs arise.

## Hurricane Florence Relief

St. James' is sending \$2000 from our Missions and Outreach budget to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) to help their partners and dioceses reach the most vulnerable communities devastated by Hurricane Florence. The initial flooding in many North Carolina eastern communities is now being followed by predicted flooding in coastal South Carolina. The aftermath of this storm will continue for at least weeks, if not months.

**ERD has established a Hurricane Relief Fund** to address this continuing disaster. If you would like to make a contribution to support this effort, please send contributions to: Episcopal Relief and Development, Hurricane Relief Fund, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA, 22116-7058. Or give online: [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org).

**You can also designate a gift to ERD in support of Tsunami relief in Indonesia.**

## Vestry Highlights

### Meeting of September 18, 2018

With the Rector presiding, the Vestry met for its regularly scheduled meeting on September 18.

Ken Van Valkenburgh's reflection, based upon his personal and family experiences, reminded us that "God is ever-present," and that "every day is a good day," to which all present said "Amen!"

Added to our prayers for parishioners in need were those thanking James Beebe for his participation in "Operation Airdrop" (to assist citizens in the Carolinas affected by Hurricane Florence) and for God's protection of all who have undertaken humanitarian flights to supply areas isolated by floodwaters.

The treasurer announced that St. James' remains "in the black" for the year. Anonymous donations to spruce up the kitchen and to support our music program were received. Confirmation of receipt of the second \$5000 (for the renovation and outfitting of the rectory at Bon Samaritain L'Acul) was noted.

Budget requests for 2019 will be due soon [October 25]; all concerned should forecast needs and ready submissions.

#### **Reverend Meredith's report** included:

- Clergy and vestry pledges received for 2019 total \$127,000, an increase over this time last year.
- The awaited consultant engineer's report on the parish hall ramp has not been received.
- Plans for a future capital campaign continue to be developed with information from other parishes, the diocesan Strategic Financial Resources Commission (SFRC), and recommended campaign consultants. Any campaign will be tied to the results of our on-going discernment process.

In his report, **Reverend James** spoke of:

- **Stewardship.** Our 2019 campaign has begun, and members of the vestry and clergy again will contact parishioners individually, in advance of the mailing of pledging materials on or around October 1. Where we see God working at St. James' and our commitment

to support his works are key points to consider.

- **Discernment.** A theme has emerged from the responses received from those who completed the questionnaires, and information will be presented at the annual meeting.

Those present were reminded of the Children's Sabbath, with student participation, on October 28.

Joyce Nohowel, Chair of the Administration Commission, presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for warden, vestry, and delegate positions to be published shortly and to be voted upon at the annual meeting. Nomination of others and self-nominations will be accepted; contact the parish office for requirements.

The Junior Warden discussed plans for the Fall Rummage Sale Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13.

The Senior Warden reported on the success of the Men of St. James' cookout, held September 7. The ongoing need for yardwork/ grounds upkeep may be addressed with a parish-wide effort after church on a Sunday in October. Plans to make it a "fun day" are being considered.

#### **Commission reports**

**Facilities (Isabelle Schuessler):** Various needs for which volunteers are needed are listed in the church office. Thanks were offered to those who continue to meet church needs.

**Finance (James Beebe):** Funding for immediate need (PH ramp) continues while the engineering report is pending. Already noted were donations for kitchen and music. Timely budget submissions were emphasized.

**Worship (Lori Minasian):** Additional candidates for acolytes training and service are sought. Feedback from parishioners concerning use of the Book of Common Prayer during the summer has been positive.

*Continued on next page*

**Vestry Highlights, continued from page 7****Old Business**

Barry Thompson presented the proposal for recognition for longevity of service at St. James' Children's School. The proposal has been approved by the board of directors of the school. Following an extensive discussion, the vestry voted to approve the proposed manner of recognition.

After setting October 23 as the next meeting date, the vestry adjourned.

*Barry Thompson*  
*Senior Warden*

**Upcoming  
DEADLINES**

**Attention Parish Leaders!****Budget Requests Due:**

Thursday, October 25

**Annual Reports Due:**

Thursday, November 1

**Altar Guild: Enabling “the Beauty of Holiness” and Setting the Lord’s Table**

Perhaps you have noticed and admired the graceful, efficient orchestration of the distribution of the elements during Holy Communion. Priests and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) attend to each person at the altar rail, distributing the wafers, wine, and grape juice, making us all members of the Body of Christ. Silver communion vessels and candlelight add dramatic presence to altar hangings and crisp, white linens. The group responsible for setting the Lord’s table, making sure that all of elements of this sacrament are in place and presented beautifully for the congregation, is the Altar Guild.



It is sometimes easy for us to discount the value of beauty in our worship services and in our lives. In the words of The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley, the retired Bishop of Alabama, “We are vaguely apologetic for the trappings of the church as we think of the servant Christ who calls us to service and sacrifice in the world. It is certainly true that...God’s people and mission matter a great deal more than the polish of the brass candlesticks. Yet beauty is indispensable. We need to cherish it in the church. The scriptures tell us tirelessly of the glory of God and the beauty of holiness. We worship and adore the creating God who made a world filled with beauty and whose

heavenly realm is ravishingly glorious...Seeing a well-arrayed altar and sanctuary each Sunday morning fills us with a spirit of joy and gratitude. It lifts up our hearts. This vision of eternal reality through earthly things renews us

for ministry and service in the world of great need and struggle. Such holy beauty inspires us to strive to make the world a more lovely and loving place.”

Altar Guild members share a deep connection and camaraderie developed by working together in teams to prepare the altars for all services. Members set up the bread and wine for Eucharist, make sure that the altars and areas surrounding them are prepared for worship, and care for the sacred vessels and linens of the church. Work is done together on teams, with each team dedicated to preparing for worship one Sunday a month. Both men and women participate, and often couples work together.

We always welcome new members, and are preparing for our next training session shortly. If you are looking for a way to meet new people, and deepen your spiritual experience at St. James’, Altar Guild is for you! Please contact Chair Kris Smithberger to get started.

## Feed My Sheep

On a recent “Sheep Sunday” we were reminded in scripture and music of a core teaching of how we are to care for God’s people. The people of St. James’ carry out that directive in many ways in our parish family, our local and national communities, and the world.

A major opportunity to feed God’s sheep is right here in our back yard at the aptly-named Shepherd’s Table in Silver Spring. For many years, people with limited food resources have been fed there, where they also have access to clothing donations and a variety of services. St. James’ has regularly participated in serving dinners.

Shepherd’s Table has recently moved to an attractive building in downtown Silver Spring that provides a comfortable environment for service recipients, staff, and volunteers. The program now provides 21 meals per week, many with the support of corporations and worship communities.

St. James’ continues to staff the evening meal for the fifth Wednesday of the month—four to five times each year. We are asked to provide 11 volunteers, divided between the two shifts for the evening meal. Other support activities include transporting clothing donated for rummage sales and excess food from local coffee shops.

Because of advantages in technology and in growth of programs and volunteers, signing up is now done electronically by communication between individual volunteers and Shepherd’s Table staff. Instructions for creating an electronic account at Shepherd’s Table is provided at the end of this article.



Once you are in the system, you can sign up for the regular St. James’ dinners as well as any of the other breakfasts, brunches, lunches, or dinners. This will allow you to serve if calendar conflicts or traveling after dark present a problem.

Shepherd’s Table is located at 8206 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, on the right (southbound) side between a fire station and the Progress Place building, just before a railroad underpass.

Please consider and pray about one way to answer Christ’s call to feed his sheep. Many at St. James’ can share their experiences with you. I am happy to do so and will also explore ways to help with registration if that is a problem.

—*Mary Miers*

### Volunteering at Shepherd’s Table

Instructions follow for using Shepherd’s Table’s new online signup portal. If you don’t have access to the Internet or don’t have an email address, please contact Carmen Garcia, Volunteer Coordinator: 301-585-6463, extension 9.

#### How to create a volunteer account for Shepherd’s Table

1. The user weblink for St. James’ is: [vhub.at/stjameschurch](http://vhub.at/stjameschurch). On the weblink, click Create Account on the top right.
2. It will prompt you to make a username and password.
3. Select any affiliations that pertain to you. This will not limit your volunteering options.
4. Fill out your profile: name, address, email address, emergency contact.
5. The screen will then confirm you made an account, click “next,” and you’ll see the calendar with available shifts.

# St. James' Fourth Annual Family Hayride and Bonfire



**At Butler's Orchard  
Saturday, October 13**

*Arrive by 6:15 p.m. for 6:30 p.m. hayride*

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## **Sign up now!**

Reserve your spot by signing up at [tinyurl.com/STJhayride5](https://tinyurl.com/STJhayride5).

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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 6:15 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 or the parish office.*



# ST JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**WHEN?**

Friday and Saturday  
**October 12-13, 2018**

DOORS OPEN at 9:00 a.m.

Proceeds support St. James' parish programs; sale benefits our community.

**WHY?**

**How?** We will collect donations and empty the shed on **Sunday, October 7**. We need your help with sorting and pricing on **Monday-Thursday**; daytime/evening/SSL hours. Bring your **DONATIONS October 6-9!** Sign up to help on our website.

**What?** Collectibles, kitchen and household items, children's toys and games, books, tools, furniture, sporting equipment, jewelry... **AND MORE.**

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

It's time for the Third Annual

# Halloween FunFest!

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

Saturday, October 27, 2018

6:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

Come and go as you please...

INDOORS ~ RAIN OR SHINE!

**Fear-turing...**

Haunted Catacombs! — 6:00 to 8:00

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

Costume Parade — 7:00 to 7:15

Spooky Organ Concert! — 7:30 to 7:45

**PLUS**

Indoor kids' activities

Warm cider • Cold lemonade • Popcorn

SAFE • SECURE • FUN

for all age groups

*Regarding costumes:*

*Please be creative, but exercise discretion.*

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

St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Road

Potomac, MD



We'll need volunteers to help put on the show! Watch for a sign-up opportunity soon.

## Book Club, October 28: *Sula*



*Sula*, written by Toni Morrison in 1973, tells the story of two girls, Nel and Sula. Meeting at the age of twelve and coping with life in their community—the Bottom—they become devoted friends, yet take sharply divergent paths as women. Nel stays in Medallion, Ohio, raising a

family, becoming a pillar of the black community. Sula rejects that life, goes to college, and embraces city life. She returns to her roots, and the story continues. Their friendship ends, the book's inside flap tells us, "in an unforgivable betrayal"—or does it end?

Described as terrifying, ribald, comic, and tragic, these women create a picture of what it

means and costs to be a black woman in America in that time. What part do secrets, betrayals, friendships, community, and changing values play? All are welcome to join the discussion in the parish hall library at 6:45 p.m.

Future Book Club selections: November 25, Elizabeth Gilbert's *The Signature of All Things*. December 16—NOT on the usual fourth Sunday—the book is *Two Steps Forward*, by Graeme Simsion and Anne Buist. For January 27, the book for discussion is *The Music Shop*, by Rachel Joyce.

Again, all are welcome to this informal, group-led discussion, even if you can't say that you finished the book. And if you have a book that you think would have good discussion possibilities, please contact Jo Ann Thompson or the parish office, [office@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:office@stjamespotomac.org).

## The Police Department Answers Questions – Lunch & Learn November 6

What would you like to ask the Montgomery County Police Department? What are some suggestions for staying safer as seniors at home and in public? What are some of those subtle scam attempts that aren't always easy to spot? These are some of the possible topics to be covered by Officer Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer, Second District, Montgomery County Police when she appears at Lunch & Learn on Election Day, November 6, in the undercroft. Our social time begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon, and the program begins at 12:30.

Lunch & Learn is open to all, and the usually more mature attendees will not hold age against any younger folks who want to join in. To enjoy the \$10.00 per person meal, please make a reservation with Sarah Padgett. Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and visitors—the more the merrier! If transportation is an issue, please contact the office; we want to see you there.

The Lunch & Learn Committee would like to once again send a big "Thank You!" to all who help in various ways to get the setup and cleanup

chores completed. The year would not run as smoothly without you.



Krista Stammayer, presenting the unique perspective of four- and five-year-olds at the Children's Chapel service, part of the St. James' Children's School's curriculum, at the September 4 meeting of the Lunch & Learn group.



## Please Join St. James' Children's School for Our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

**Friday, October 19, 2018**

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

in St. James' parish hall

**RSVP HERE: [25th Anniversary Celebration](#)**, or call St. James' Children's School, 301-762-3246.

6:00 – Buffet, Wine tasting, Bar; open-beer and wine to purchase

7:00 – Music by the Eclectiks, Dessert and Coffee served

8:45 to 9:00 – Purchase and pick up items

\$15 per person includes childcare downstairs for current and alumni children. The Great Zucchini will appear for all children! All Auction items open until 8:30 p.m.; raffles continue throughout the night.

### News from St. James' Children's School

#### Classroom Spotlight: The Older Infant Room

By Ms. Tiffany

This fall, along with myself, our teaching team in the Older Infants room of St. James' Children's School includes Ms. Rizwana, Ms. Vera, and Ms. Danielle. We have six students on a daily basis and their ages range from 10 months to 1 year. Currently, the Older Infant Room is working on transitioning the children from individualized schedules to a more structured and scheduled day. We are using play-based curriculum that is based upon four important domains: language development, cognitive development, physical development, and personal and social development. We also include physical development, music, sensory activities and art activities in our lesson plans.

The Older Infant class is very busy with curious children that are eager to learn and explore. They are loving the new skills that they are learning, such as pulling up, cruising, walking,



talking and sitting at the "big kids" table. Along with these new experiences, the children are really enjoying reading stories with the teachers. We have started incorporating a group Circle Time into our daily routine. Each day, you'll find us reading books, dancing to music, and looking silly doing finger plays.

In addition, a lot of other exciting things are happening in the Older Infants room this month. Our themes are "Fall" and "On the Farm." We are learning about different farm animals and the sounds they make. The children also are enjoying this month's fun sensory activities that include exploring corn and the parts of a pumpkin. The pumpkin exploration is my favorite. Everyone get messy and experiences the slimy feeling of the inside of a pumpkin and the smoothness of the seeds we pull out!

We really love all the children in our class and we cannot wait to watch them grow and change during the year!

## Happy 25th Saint James' Children's School Anniversary to our Director, Astrid Crookshank

On Friday, September 21 Astrid Crookshank, director of St. James' Children's School received quite a 25th anniversary surprise! From a colorful banner greeting her on arrival, to handmade gifts from the students, to a memory book chronicling her 25 years, a delicious lunch and even a special song (which the students had to stealthily rehearse) ... everyone put on quite a show! Astrid remembers joining the school when it had only nine children. She is a treasure. Congratulations, Astrid and special thanks on behalf of St. James' alumni and parents who have been blessed through the SJCS experience!



### Getting ready to celebrate...

Left to right: Mary Slaby, business manager; Rebecca Boker, program assistant; Astrid Crookshank, SJCS director; Jennifer Chandler, administrative assistant; Marisol Castro, Fours room assistant (and Children's Ministries Coordinator for the Church)



## KBC Learning - Jamaica Literacy Project

By Karl Bennett

The 2018/2019 school year started off with a bang. New challenges and new possibilities lie ahead. The faces of some students starting the new school year suggest a cornucopia of anxiety, expectations and delight to see old friends; and for others, a disappointment that the summer holidays have ended. Students starting out with a significant deficit in reading and math will require more targeted help in an environment of scarce resources.

Last school year was a difficult year for most Jamaicans. High inflation and creeping depreciation of the Jamaican currency meant increased costs for transportation, utilities, food and housing and thereby created difficulties for some parents to satisfy basic living expenses. The first noticeable impact was when four students dropped out of our learning center because parents either lost their jobs or had difficulty with expenses. Nobody was immune to the economic impacts. Mary's Child, the non-profit that houses the teenage mothers that KBC Learning provides educational support, had to relocate. KBC Learning subsequently was also forced to move its learning center to a lower cost location. Luckily, a site on the campus of the University of the West Indies, Mona became available for KBC. This new location opens up exciting possibilities for collaboration. Despite the challenges faced during the last school year, KBC Learning was successful in providing literacy/numeracy tutoring to twenty teenage mothers.

This school year, KBC Learning along with its non-profit partners will combine efforts to increase literacy and numeracy tutoring of students at Mary's Child. Working with partners is necessary to partially address the increasing number of requests for assistance that have been made by Mary's Child and others. KBC Learning is most appreciative of the assistance provided by the St. James' family throughout this journey.

## Calendar of Events

- Sundays at 9:15 a.m.:** FaithTalk - adult spiritual formation with childcare
- Sundays at 10:30 a.m.:** Sunday School with childcare
- October 6, Saturday:** Blessing of the Animals, 4:00 p.m., church front steps or undercroft if rain
- October 6-11:** Fall Rummage Sale setup week
- October 7:** Youth Group Dinner, California Tortilla, 6:00 p.m.
- October 12-13:** Fall Rummage Sale!
- October 13, Saturday:** Hayride and Bonfire at Butler's Orchard, 6:30 p.m.
- October 14:** Cathedral Hunger Walk, 2:00 p.m.
- October 17, Wednesday:** Visit to Potomac Valley Nursing Home, 10:30 a.m.
- October 21:** Youth Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- October 25, Thursday:** Budget Requests Due
- October 27, Saturday:** Halloween Funfest, 6:00 p.m.
- October 28, Sunday:** Children's Sabbath, 10:30 a.m.
- October 28, Sunday:** Book Club, 6:45 p.m.
- November 1, Thursday:** Annual Reports Due
- November 4, Sunday:** Deadline to submit Vestry candidate nominations
- November 6, Tuesday:** Lunch & Learn, 11:30 a.m.

### Prayer shawl Thank You

We received this from the mother of the recipient of a prayer shawl:

*I know the amount of work that goes into these, so I just wanted to let you know how much he is enjoying and utilizing the shawl. He can feel the love. He has lost so much weight that he is always cold. He loves to have it wrapped around him....Please be kind enough to share with the volunteers my email. I want them to know that their good deed is greatly appreciated.*

If you can knit or crochet at a basic level, you are invited to contribute a shawl or blanket for this ministry. The yarn is available from the parish office, and members of St. James' are happy to offer refresher lessons!



## Fall Spiritual Formation Program Continues

St. James' offers Sunday morning spiritual formation, *FaithTalk*, from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m., between services, in the parish hall meeting room. Childcare is offered from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### The Care of Creation

We're currently in the midst of a six-week series on "The Care of Creation," Using *The Green Bible* as our resource. Jump in! Our next topic is "Connected to Creation."

### 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](mailto:ann.venton@yahoo.com).)

## Faith Talk Calendar

Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall meeting room.

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

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.

## *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 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. In a few days you will receive pledge forms in your mail and email, if you haven't already.



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.