



The St. James' Pilgrim

News for the Journey . . . September 2019

St. James' Episcopal Church • 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854-3340 • 301-762-8040 • www.stjamespotomac.org



Reflection from our Assistant Rector, The Rev. James S. Isaacs

New Beginnings

Whenever someone is baptized, they are invited into a new life as a part of the Body of Christ. At most Eucharistic services, we confess our sins, and with the absolution we are invited to amend our lives and, in some ways, to begin again. Each morning, we have a new day we begin and with it a chance to start fresh. We find ourselves now at the beginning of a new program and academic year, and it is another chance to begin again.

At St. James', we are beginning a new Sunday School curriculum and the parents are helping to make it a success. The Mental Health Ministries are starting back up with new initiatives after spending the summer to reflect and plan. The Membership Commission is preparing for more exciting community events. The Stewardship Commission is preparing for a new annual giving campaign. We are going to look at our buildings and property with fresh eyes. We are starting new FaithTalk topics between the two morning services. The choir is enriching our worship again.

With each new beginning, in different areas in our lives or the congregation, we have an opportunity to ask ourselves, now that we are beginning again, how we would like to proceed. Do we want to do things the way we did last time, or are there ways that we hope to grow, improve, or strengthen what we did in the past? At church,

the ministries above have already considered those questions, and this year looks like it is going to be another exciting one together.

I also invite you to join the congregation, if you haven't already, to consider your hopes and aspirations for this next moment in your life. You may be content to continue some things the way that you have done them before. Yet there may also be areas of your life where you seek growth, improvement, or strengthening. As one of your priests, I feel that it is appropriate to ask you to think about your prayer life, your engagement with scripture, and your service to others. Are there realistic goals that you can set for yourself in those areas for this next program year?

Goals and intentions are wonderful, but on their own don't tend to accomplish much change. As a part of bringing about growth, improvement, or strengthening, we also need to identify the ways that we will support our efforts towards those goals. Inertia and habits can make adopting new changes, even ones we desire, more difficult. So we need supports to help us maintain new practices until they become a part of our lives. Identify and use those supports.

God desires and leads us to fullness of life. Each beginning offers us a chance to enter more fully into what God intends for us. So praise God for our new beginnings.

In Christ,

James

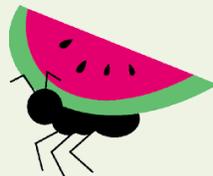


Rally Day!

Sunday, September 8, Noon

Fun and games! BBQ picnic at church back lawn

Barbecue lunch from Mission Barbecue.
Sponsored by St. James' Sunday School
and Fellowship ministries,
in cooperation with
St. James' Children's School.



Blessing of the Bags, NOON

Come to St. James' back yard

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

Quarterly State of the Parish Address

Sunday, September 15, 11:45 a.m.



Join us in the parish hall on September 15 for our Quarterly State of the Parish Address. Not only will we be beginning our **Building Visioning Process**, we will be kicking off our **Annual Stewardship Campaign, *Planting Seeds for the Harvest***.

The seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain: growing up and increasing, yielding thirty, sixty and a hundredfold. (Mark 4:8)

The Annual Stewardship Campaign is the way we raise funds to support our annual operating budget. With these funds we plant the seeds that bear fruit—nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our parish walls.

This year's Annual Stewardship theme, **Planting Seeds for the Harvest**, reminds us that our financial gifts are the seeds that produce the harvest—allowing us to further the current mission and ministries of St. James', and ensuring the future work of our church.

We hope you will help us plant these seeds by making a pledge to St. James'. Pledge information will be mailed the week of September 15. Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute.



Reflection from our Youth Director, Rachele Donnelly

It's Good to Be Me

In our house, most Saturday mornings follow the same routine: wake up, feed and walk the dog, and head to Dempsey's (think diner equivalent of Cheers) for breakfast.

The small-town restaurant seats no more than 50, and is a staple for regulars. Ten stools line the counter, where diners chat with one another as friends, regardless of having known each other for 20 years, or 20 minutes. The décor includes framed pictures of the staff with their families, bright yellow and green booths and a television displaying Maryland Lottery numbers and news. It's the kind of gem-in-the-rough that only a local could appreciate. Naturally, Sean and I love it.

This past weekend as we awaited our breakfast, Sean excitedly pointed to the television, announcing that a local man had won \$100,000. Eagerly anticipating my breakfast, I responded unemotionally with "Oh, ok cool," prompting the man seated next to me to lean in and share some big news.

The unassuming man, likely in his late 60's, was dining with his wife. In his right hand, a cup of coffee. In his left, several lottery tickets, tightly clutched. In a rather nonchalant manner, the man shared that HE in fact, was the winner. What's more, it was his third time winning big, having twice before won \$50,000. Noticing the tickets in his hand, I couldn't help but wonder how much more he had paid into the lottery over the years. Sean and I congratulated the man who proudly announced: "Yes. It's good to be me!"

As the day went on, I found myself thinking of the "fortunate" stranger and his statement "It's good to be me." A younger Rachele might have felt a pang of jealousy in the man's good fortune (think of all the student loans that could pay off!), but an older, hopefully wiser, Rachele felt sad for him. Truthfully, I have no idea how this man has spent his winnings. For all I know, he has generously donated a large portion. However, I can't help but think that based on his response, his

focus remained largely on himself. Having money is not a bad thing. It can provide comfort and stability, but when we start defining ourselves by what we have, we lose sight of God's plan.

As the summer prepares to come to an end, the excitement of this year's youth program begins to build steam. We will continue to blend a variety of service projects and fun activities, as we learn more about what God's plan includes for each of us. Additionally, we will focus on building and maintaining relationships with the youth groups at two of our neighboring parishes, through a series of joint projects.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to get together with the youth leaders at St. Francis Episcopal (across from Potomac Village) and Christ Episcopal (downtown Rockville near the courthouse) and plan several joint activities. Their youth groups are similar in size to ours. Because of overlapping parish and school boundaries, it's likely that many of our youth already have friends attending these groups. Because of our shared resources and time, we can plan to do more fun stuff, too!

The plan for now is to do two joint activities and two St. James'-only activities each month. Sean and I will continue to be present at all youth gatherings. The joint activities will be structured as follows: one fun activity and one service (but still fun) project. Upcoming service projects include making and donating goodie bags for local first responders, participating in the Hunger Fund Walk at the Cathedral, laying wreaths in December as part of the Wreaths Across America program, and more. Some of the fun activities planned include Sky Zone, a teen hayride and bonfire at Butler's Orchard (separate from the St. James' family hayride/bonfire), visiting the Bible Museum, ice skating, and even tubing in Harper's Ferry next May.

Matthew 25:40 teaches us the importance of service: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Lord delights in our successes, but above that, he desires for us to

Mental Health Ministries update

In August, due to heavy summer schedules, not enough people were able to attend the Mental Health Ministries Leaders' Meeting to finish preparing for the initiatives for this coming program year, and so more information about this year's initiatives will be advertised after the September meeting.

One of the working groups has organized a training for Mental Health First Aid at St. James'. That training will take place on Saturday, October 5th. Watch for more information soon about it and how to register to attend. (People at St. James' will

have the first chance to sign up for the limited spots available for this training, then we will open the registration to the wider community.)

The working group on reflections about last year's initiatives will also continue its work with the submitted reflections. (The prompts were in the August edition of the Pilgrim.)

Please keep the Leaders' Group of the Mental Health Ministry in your prayers. The work that we have been called to at St. James' is important, and we seek to be guided by God who first inspired us.

Youth Director's Reflection *continued from previous page*

remain steady in our commitment to God and to others. Whether serving at Shepherd's Table, participating in youth-sponsored service projects, or just spending time comforting someone, caring for others rewards us with a spiritual and emotional return that no amount of lottery winnings ever could.

When I think of the many ways God has blessed me—with wonderful friends and family, the physical and financial ability to help others, knowing the love God has for all of us and having the opportunity to share all these things with our youth—I began to realize the guy sitting next to me wasn't the only winner. I hope you can join me in recognizing that because of God's unconditional, never-ending, absolutely relentless, love for us, "it is *[indeed]*, good to be us."

Rachele

Youth group is open to all tweens/teens in grades 6 through 12. Friends are always welcome. To learn more about the activities we have scheduled, please reach out to our youth director, Rachele Donnelly at Rachele@stjamespotomac.org or 240-401-0733. The youth would like to extend a very **warm welcome** to the next class of youth group participants: **Andrew, Jordan, Olivia, Bennett, and Jason!** We can't wait for you to join us for all the fun activities we have planned.



Youth Group in September

The first youth gathering of the year will meet at **Sky Zone in Gaithersburg** on Sunday, **September 8**, 5:15-5:30 p.m. for the 5:40 jump.

Parents will need to fill out the Sky Zone waiver form, which can either be filled out at the facility, or online at Sky Zone's website. Cost per youth is \$10 which covers bounce and pizza dinner.

Additionally, we are asking each youth to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly (plastic please), which will be donated to Manna.

September Youth Group Schedule

- September 8: Sky Zone (Gaithersburg, 5:30-7:45 p.m.) bring \$10
- September 15: Youth Group (parish hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m.) bring \$3
- September 22: Service Project (St. Francis Episcopal parish hall) bring \$3
- September 29: High School Dinner (California Tortilla, Cabin John 6:00-8:00 p.m.) bring \$5.



St. James' Episcopal Church

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(301) 762-8040 / office@stjamespotomac.org / www.stjamespotomac.org

September, 2019

Dear St. James' family,

We are excited by our Sunday School plans for the year, especially our new curriculum, *Weaving God's Promises*, through which we will be teaching our children about God's love for us all.

This year's lesson plans, *Weaving God's Promises: Weaving our Faith*, covers the story of our salvation, from Adam and Eve to Christ's resurrection, and how we as individuals fit into that story. The New Testament focus will be on Matthew's Gospel and its emphasis on God's Kingdom. There are also lessons, scattered throughout the year, focusing on our Episcopal tradition and faith. Take-home pages will be shared each week so families know what their children are learning and can talk about their faith together.

One change this year is that we are asking for more volunteers in the classroom. Although most classes have a lead teacher, we need volunteers to help lead the lessons. This is why we chose a high-quality curriculum known for its ease of use. Lesson plans are accessible online, and the username and password are available to all. Copies are also available in the Sunday School office, and can be provided by Marisol Castro. To learn more, please join me for a brief meeting during the Rally Day picnic on September 8.

If you prefer not to help in the classroom, there are other opportunities: Children's Sabbath on October 27, the Christmas Pageant on December 24, the Advent activity in December, Youth Sunday in May, and various service projects.

Remember that by participating you are sharing your faith with your children, teaching them of God's love, and showing them that their Christian education is important. There is no greater gift than this, and I am grateful for your help.

Please know how much your children mean to me. May God bless you—and the children of St. James',

Rev. Meredith

Gracious God, this is the beginning of a new Sunday school year—a happy and exciting time. We pray that our teachers will be generous, wise, and gracious. We pray for our classmates, so that true friendships may be found for all. Especially we pray for our children. Keep them safe and well. Open their hearts and minds to a world of learning, and may this be the first of thousands of days in which they know the depth of your love and the constancy of your care. Amen.

FaithTalk Book Study Begins September 8: *Becoming a Healing Presence*

Join us for a seven-week FaithTalk study of the book *Becoming a Healing Presence* by Albert Rossi. As one review stated, "Dr. Rossi writes about how to live so as to be a healing presence in the messy world we inhabit today."

We begin on September 8 at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall meeting room. The book is available online or at your favorite bookstore. To be best prepared to share, please read the introduction as well as chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Book Club, September 22

Beneath a Scarlet Sky is based on the life and story of Pino Lella in 1940s Italy when he was a normal 17-year-old. "Normal" changed.

Allied bombs destroyed his family home. He joined an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and fell for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. Although he wanted nothing to do with the Nazis or the war in general, his parents insisted he enlist in the German army, thinking that he would be safe in that position. He became the personal driver for one of the Third Reich's most powerful commanders, a perfect position from which to spy for the Allies.

The Book Club discussion is likely to cover writing style, possible embellished storytelling, debate about Lella's exploits, and Italy under Mussolini. The author did interview the aging Lella before writing the book, and this hearty man is still alive and well in Italy, according to a report from his son.

All are welcome to these group-led discussions in the parish hall from 6:45-8:15 p.m. on the fourth Sunday evenings of each month. Coming book selections: October 20, *Killers of the Harvest Moon* by David Grann; November 24, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens. Suggestions for future reading are always welcome, as are **you**.

Safeguarding God's Children Training for All Working with Children

All volunteers and staff working with children at St. James' are required to take or renew the training. Contact the parish office for information, office@stjamespotomac.org. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays in September and October at various locations.

Find dates and registration information at www.edow.org/forms-and-resources/safe-church/safeguarding-gods-children.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Resumes September 12!

Join us for a small group study from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. each Thursday in the parish hall meeting room. We will begin the year studying the book of Isaiah, the largest book in the Old Testament. Experience the word of God through the faithful witness of this prophet, revealed with reverence and compassion. We will use a Kerygma study guide; contact the office for information, office@stjamespotomac.org.

Confirmation Classes Begin September 29 Sign up now for November 3 Confirmation

On November 3 the Bishop will visit St. James'. Adults and youth who are interested in being confirmed or received must attend our Confirmation class series. Come have fun and learn about what it means to make a mature commitment to Christ. Pizza will be provided!



- We will meet for five Sundays, beginning on September 29, after the 10:30 service.
- Sign up with Rev. Meredith by September 22, rector@stjamespotomac.org.
- Those interested in being confirmed in May are encouraged to participate in this class series; we may not offer classes in the spring.

Fall Programs at St. James'

Mark your calendar for these exciting events!

Rally Day with Barbecue Picnic – Sunday, September 8 **New FaithTalk Program Begins**

FaithTalk book study, *Becoming a Healing Presence*, at 9:15 a.m.
Picnic and Blessing of the Bags after the 10:30 service.

Quarterly State of the Parish Address

New Sunday School Program – Sunday, September 15

New Sunday School program begins at 10:15 a.m.
Kick off our building visioning process! Rev. Meredith's report at 11:45 a.m.

Acolyte Training and Refresher – Sunday, September 22

Current and prospective Acolytes are invited to learn about being an acolyte at St. James'; at 12:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Fall Community Sale – Saturday, September 28

Save your donations, and plan to help with setup September 26-27.

Confirmation Classes – Beginning Sunday, September 29

Five Sundays of classes before Confirmation at St. James' on November 3.

Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, September 29

Bring your furry and feathered family for a brief blessing at 1:00 p.m.

Hayride/Bonfire at Butler's Orchard – Saturday, October 12

Fun for the whole family starts at 6:15 p.m., with a bonfire at the end!
Sign up online at: <https://tinyurl.com/Hayride2019>.

Halloween FunFest! – Saturday, October 26

With Trunk or Treat and Spooky Organ Music

Mark your calendar and plan to bring all your goblins to the fun.

Complete information about these events can be found in your Sunday bulletin announcements, News and Notes email, *The Pilgrim* newsletter, and at www.stjamespotomac.org.



Let It Go...And Spread the Joy!

St. James' Community Sale Returns Saturday, September 28

Last spring our then-parishioner Ann Nayback-Beebe gave us a wonderful gift by leading our rummage sale in a new way, carried out almost entirely over three days from set up to clean up.

Even though the sale in its new format brought in less money, it was an inter-generational service project that accomplished the primary non-monetary goals of the sale, which are to enable people to recycle their treasures and to bring the community into our space to meet us.

The new format seems to be more realistic in the amount of time required from the volunteers. And the "reset" allowed those who really wanted to retire from staffing the sales to do so. So, now that Ann and her family have moved to Colorado, the question is whether we can keep it going in the new way that Ann introduced--without Ann.

To find out, we are going to try to replicate it as a fall sale, with relatively minor adjustments.

The theme is the same: *Let it go, and spread the joy!* And we'll keep calling it the "Community Sale," to keep it distinct from the previous rummage sales.

We will use the same time frame: Set up will begin Thursday afternoon, September 26, when we'll set up the tables in the parish hall, empty the shed and receive new donations. On Friday, we'll take new donations only through the morning, while sorting and pricing continue through the day. Doors will open to customers at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 28, and the sale will conclude by mid-afternoon. At that point the clean-up will commence, with only a few items left on display for sale to parishioners during the Sunday coffee hour.

We'll offer the same merchandise: housewares, lamps and small appliances, toys and sports equipment, tools, baby gear, books, art work and collectibles. We will again sell children's clothing, but no clothing for adults (only accessories such as purses, scarves or ties). We

can sell small items of furniture (an end table, a desk chair, a file cabinet), but nothing that requires a truck or more than one person to transport it.

We hope for an inter-generational volunteer work force. This time the youth group will not be conducting a fund-raiser of their own as part of the sale, but we encourage the youth to participate and SSL hours will be available.

How can you participate in the sale?

- **Gather and sort your treasures.**

We won't ask you to try to price things in advance, but it will be enormously helpful to have things come boxed, bagged or piled with like items together.

- **Bring your donations at the designated times and places.**

The church shed: We have a limited amount of space in the shed in the back parking lot. Beginning September 8 we'll receive donations at the shed on Sundays between noon and 1:00 p.m., or by appointment.

The parish hall: We can receive donations during set-up on Thursday September 26, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.; and Friday September 27, 8:00 a.m. to noon. On Friday afternoon we need to concentrate on pricing.

- **Plan to help.** Please come help sort and price the goods for any amount of time you can. Email the parish office to let us know you'll be there. We especially need confirmation about helpers to work the sale on Saturday morning.

- **Come to buy.** This is the major general fund-raising event for the parish, and every dollar is welcome. And who knows what kind of joy you might find? Maybe even in the 25-cent treasure box!

St. James' Community Fall Sale

Saturday, September 28

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Come join us for fellowship and great finds!
Help is needed to make the sale a success.

Donation Drop-off: Donations are accepted at the church back shed on Sundays between noon and 1:00 p.m., Thursday Sept. 27 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday Sept. 28 8:00 a.m. to noon, or by appointment.

Volunteers are needed! Please plan to help on these days, any hours you can:

Setup Thursday, Sept. 26, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. (unload the shed, begin setup)

Setup Friday, Sept. 27, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (sort and price donations)

Sale Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (cleanup begins 3:00 p.m., followed by celebration of a job well done!)

What Can We Donate? All the items below, but no adult clothing.

Children's clothing

Electronics

Sporting goods

Furniture

Toys

Decorative items

Tools

Men's and women's accessories

Household goods

Jewelry

Books, CDs and DVDs

Want to Help? Please contact Sarah Hnatov, Tracy Lively, or the parish office.

Vestry Highlights

Meeting of August 20, 2019

The vestry met, with Reverend Meredith Heffner presiding.

Wendy Hicks presented a moving reflection on compassion, urging us to have the fearlessness/courage to reach out to assist others who are anxious, troubled, or in need.

The treasurer noted that maintenance of pledges has slipped from 90 percent to 85 percent. Although this is common in many churches during the summer, it is unusual for St. James'. Parishioners are asked to keep their pledges current.

Parke Brown reported the reinvestment of \$900,000 of Mary Shepard's bequest.

Rev. Meredith announced the formation of a Building Visioning Committee that will review and provide oversight for the process implemented by our Generis consultant. Details will be provided to parishioners at the quarterly State of the Parish meeting on September 15.

Our fall stewardship campaign will commence September 15 also. The projected goal will remain the same as last year.

Carolyn Ragland and Mary Margaret Winn (our former seminarian) have developed a long-term plan for pastoral care, beginning with small steps (note the new pew cards).

A new curriculum, "Weaving God's Promises," for the Sunday School has been adopted. Volunteers and parents will be asked to become involved.

Rev. James Isaacs seeks reflections for the Mental Health and Wellness program. Plans for the Mental Health First Aid session will be shared soon.

The Senior Warden reported on the Diocesan "Stewardship of our Assets - Business Methods Workshop" meeting in August that he and the

treasurer attended. Food for thought, checklists for Best Management Practices (including risk minimization), building collaboration among parishes, and the provision of diocesan guidance and support for individual parishes were discussed. St. James' is in good shape, although there are items to review and perhaps areas in which to improve.

Sarah Hnatov announced the resumption of the Greeters program. Parishioner volunteers will serve on a rotational basis. Please consider joining this effort to welcome everyone (visitors and members) to St. James'.

The draft of the Diocesan Council's strategic plan for the EDOW, "Becoming Good Soil" was discussed extensively. The mission, vision, and its sub-elements ("Inspiring every person to take their next steps towards Christ, Revitalizing our churches to grow in the Jesus Movement, and Partnering in ministries of service and justice for greater impact in our communities"), and priorities and measurable objectives for the next twelve months were reviewed. Bishop Mariann invites constructive feedback from clergy and vestry members throughout the diocese.

Reverend Meredith will convey to Bishop Mariann our observations, concerns, questions, and suggestions for improvement and for implementation.

Dates to remember

September 8 - Rally Day

September 15 - Quarterly State of the Parish Address

September 15 - Annual Stewardship Campaign

September 28 - Fall Community Sale (formerly the rummage sale)

Barry Thompson, Senior Warden

St. James' Episcopal Church Annual Hayride and Bonfire



At Butler's Orchard, Saturday, October 12

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

Sign up now!

Reserve your spot by signing up at <https://tinyurl.com/Hayride2019>.

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

Suggested donation: \$10 per person

(includes hayride, bonfire, Butler's Orchard 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 Market **no later than 6:15 p.m.** For their safety, children should remain in vehicles until we're invited to caravan up to our group spot. We will board our wagons promptly and the hayride will begin at 6:30. Please 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? Offline RSVPs? Contact Dawn Iype at
dawniype@gmail.com or 202.669.1965*



Lunch & Learn, October 1: Montgomery County and the American Revolution

Treason? In Montgomery County? When? Come to the undercroft at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 1, have lunch and then sit back for the program where these questions will be answered. All are welcome and the only thing one needs to do for lunch is contact Sarah Padgett and plan to bring \$10.00 per person for a complete lunch. The time for the speaker will be 12:30 p.m. to about 1:30 p.m., which will conclude the event.

Susan Cooke Soderberg from the Montgomery County Historical Society will be the guest speaker. The Repudiation Act of 1765, and the Hungerford Resolves of 1774 helped lead the

citizens of Montgomery County into an armed revolt against Great Britain. Who were the leaders and how did they help launch the American Revolution? Surnames featured in the presentation are Brooke, Wooton, Thomas, Magruder, Bowie, and Griffith. Learn how these leaders contributed to the newly formed independent government of the state of Maryland.

There are usually 20 to 25 attendees at these first Tuesday events. The dress is casual, the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, there are no stairs to climb, and it's daylight driving. What's not to like? Again, all are welcome.

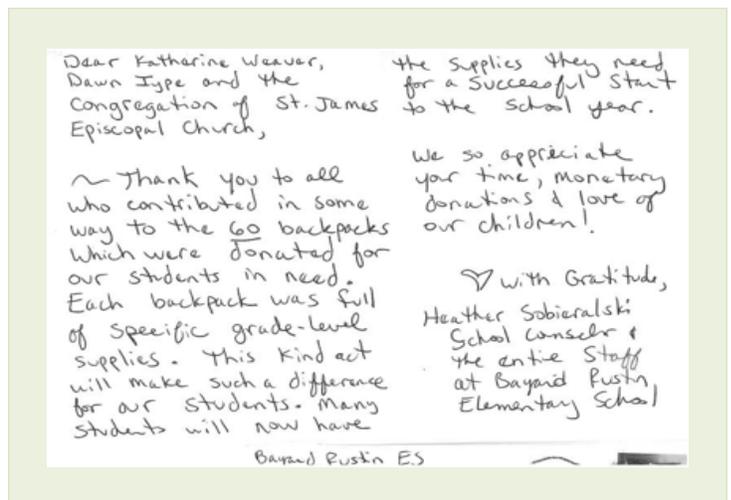
Thank You, Backpack Volunteers and Donors!

Thanks to all who helped fill 60 backpacks with school supplies on July 28! There were very exuberant kids and adults who filled multiple backpacks. A special thanks to all the adults and families who helped move supplies from the attic, set up and staff the tables, and conduct quality control of the backpacks once they were filled.

This year's backpacks were donated to Bayard Rustin Elementary School, a brand new school in Rockville where one third of the students receive free or reduced price lunches. At the request of the parish, St. James' decided to participate with an individual school in the community this year. The counselor at Bayard Rustin Elementary School was very excited to receive the backpacks for their students and she sent the following thank you note (at right).

The backpack supplies are purchased with funds with our previous year's donations. So thank you also to those who contributed financially or with in-kind donations last year. St. James' is currently collecting financial donations for the 2020 backpack drive. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church with the memo "M&O backpack drive."

Thanks again for providing supplies to local families in need!



More photos of the project are on the St. James' FaceBook page.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 29, 1:00 p.m.

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

Annual Parish Meeting: November 17

Our 2019 **Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for November 17** 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 baptized voting members of St. James' Parish at least one month prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, or would like to become a full-fledged member of St. James' please contact the office, office@stjamespotomac.org or 301-762-8040.

Nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates

The Vestry Nominating Committee for the Class of 2020 is:

Brad McCullough
Dawn Iype
Sarah Hnatov
Jennifer Nordin
Amy Metcalf.

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.

Acolyte Training Sunday, September 22

For Current and Prospective Acolytes Ages Ten and Up

Come learn about being an acolyte at St. James'! Current and prospective acolytes ages 10 and up and their parents are invited to this meeting in the church sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. Along with Rev. Meredith and Vestry Member Lori Minasian, we will review what this commitment entails including responsibilities, schedules and vestments. Claire Throckmorton will join us to provide basic training for our new acolyte recruits.



News from St. James' Children's School

Classroom Spotlight: The Todders Room

By Kim Belcher

Welcome to the new school year! New students have been transitioning to the Toddler room and we could not be more excited!! The children are adjusting nicely and are exploring their new surroundings. New toys, new books, new activities and a new curriculum have really grabbed their attention! We are looking forward to watching them grow during the school year.



This month's theme is All About Me. The children are working on their language development during Circle time by singing songs, reading books and doing finger plays. Some of their favorite songs are 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes', "One Finger" and "This is Me." They are enjoying our art projects and sensory activities with soft, smooth, rough and bumpy textures. We also have weekly Spanish instruction with Senora Vanessa. We will continue to take advantage of the beautiful weather so that our friends can play and improve their physical and social development. Every day is full of new achievements, learning activities and fun!

Calendar of Events

Sundays 9:15 a.m.: FaithTalk adult spiritual formation; childcare resumes September 15

Sundays 10:30 a.m.: Sunday School, childcare

Wednesdays 6:30 a.m.: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sept. 8, SU: Rally Day Parish Picnic! Sunday School parents' meeting, FaithTalk book study begins, Youth Group to Sky Zone

Sept. 15, SU: Sunday School resumes; State of the Parish

Sept. 18, W: Visit to Potomac Valley Nursing Home

Sept. 12, TH: Thursday Morning Book Study begins

Sept. 24, TU: Newsletter submission deadline, October 3 issue of *The Pilgrim*

Sept. 22, SU: Acolyte Training

Sept. 28, SA: Fall Community Sale at St. James'; setup and donations September 26-27

Sept. 29, SU: Confirmation classes begin for November 3 Confirmation at St. James'; Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 p.m.

Oct. 2, W: Visit to Manor Care Nursing Home

Photos of St. James' Memorial Garden – Have you seen the meadow and the cacti?

If you're interested in helping to keep the St. James' grounds beautiful, please contact the parish office.



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



St. James' Prayer List

This prayer list is updated each week on Tuesdays. To add or remove a name, contact Alice Morrison, 301-646-0938 or amorrison89@gmail.com. Names remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless we are otherwise notified.

Sympathy: For the family of Anne Pagan, *Jonathan Pagan's mother*, and in thanksgiving for Anne's life; for Bishop Mariann and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Jack, on August 3; for the family of Imogene ("Gene"), *Todd Thomas's grandmother*, and in thanksgiving for her life; for the family of Paulette Holden, *Katherine Weaver's sister-in-law*, and especially for David Holden, *Katherine's brother*, and in thanksgiving for Paulette's life.

Prayers: Dan Zimmerman; Doris Wallace; John Eisold; Jack Linehan; Mary Quackenbush; Audrey Penn; Don Schuessler; Jean Da Costa; Patrick O'Hare; Blair Slaughter; Carolyn Dick; Moira and Robert Fuller, Jr.; Sarah Padgett; Grace Huff; Gil Jackson; Ian Meselebe; Erin Leland; Jeff Whiteway, *Lindsay Ragheb's brother*; Elisabeth Fleury, *Joyce Graf's sister-in-law*; Julia Wallin, *Ann Pararas' great niece*; Debbie Abbey, *Jeanne Lehning's relative*; Kevin Reed, *Ann Sewell's son-in-law*; Isaac Romero Talley, Pamela Talley, and Phillip Maas, *Deb Talley's relatives*; Jean Wilcox, *Amy Metcalf's aunt*; Parker Schwartz, *Wendy and Lloyd Hicks' grand-nephew*; Debbie Hudson, *Marge and John Combs' niece*; Sukhee Hong, *Lucas You's mother*; Janet Ault, *Joyce Nohowel's sister*; Bob, Peggy, and Raine Bernhard, *Rev. Meredith's relatives*; Diana Coleman, *Chris Coleman's niece*; Phillip Halbgewachs, *Ronna Halbgewachs's brother*; Katrina Matthews, *Pat East's daughter*; Runi Slaughter; Peggy Sussman; Bruce Whistler, *Len Whistler's nephew*; Marie Merle, Kathy Duncan, and The Rev. Richard and Jeanne Smallwood, *Charlie and Sarah Padgett's relatives*; Angie Bove, *Doug Heffner's cousin*; Kaysen Thompson; John Warlow, *Ann Nayback-Beebe's brother*; Autumn Rain Finch, *Ann Venton's granddaughter*; Creed Gallagher and Lauren Bruan, *Alice Morrison's grandchildren*; Marilyn Carter, *Robin Roegner's mother*; Phyllis Cole and Cameron Cole, Brenda and Dennis Long, *Phyllis's grandson, sister, and brother-in-law*; Donna and Denise Marquardt, *Elaine Buschor's sister and niece*; Chris Wallace and family, *Bill and Doris Wallace's son*; David Schlesinger, *Fran Dover's son-in-law*.

For those serving away: Bess Gonglewski (France), Angela and Karl Bennett (Jamaica), Will Quackenbush (Bahrain).

St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Phone: (301) 762-8040

email: office@stjamespotomac.org

Web: www.stjamespotomac.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Eucharist
9:15 a.m. Adult Education childcare beginning 9/15)
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Eucharist and choir
Sunday School and childcare
11:45 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments

St. James' Staff

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

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

Deacon: The Rev. Todd Thomas, todd@stjamespotomac.org

Director of Music Ministry, Parish Rentals Contact:
Newton Lewis, newton@stjamespotomac.org

Sunday School Director: Marisol Castro
sundayschool@stjamespotomac.org

Youth Director: Rachele Donnelly, rachele@stjamespotomac.org

St. James' Children's School Director: Astrid Crookshank
schoolstjames@comcast.net

Sunday Sexton: Jerome Childress, office@stjamespotomac.org

Parish Administrator: Grace Lo, office@stjamespotomac.org

Communications Asst.: Kirsten Hall, kirsten@stjamespotomac.org

The Vestry of St. James' Parish, 2019

Barry Thompson, *Senior Warden*

Sarah Hnatov, *Junior Warden*

Carolyn Dick	Anselm Hennis	Wendy Hicks
Dawn Iype	Lori Minasian	Holly Mulderig
Joyce Nohowel	Patrick O'Hare	Lindsay Ragheb
Carolyn Ragland	Sandy Soundararajan	Ken Van Valkenburgh

Officers: Tracy Lively, *Treasurer*; Parke Brown, *Secretary*;
Scott Zimmerman, *Registrar*

Diocesan Delegates: Katherine Weaver, Dan Zimmerman
Alternates: Mary Miers, Pat East

The St. James' Pilgrim is published monthly. Submissions are due the Tuesday one week before publication date (nine days before publication). See the events calendar on the last page of this issue for the next issue date and deadline. Submissions may be emailed to the church office at office@stjamespotomac.org.



St. James' Episcopal Church
 11815 Seven Locks Rd.
 Potomac, MD 20854-3340

Address Service Requested

The St. James' Pilgrim—News for the Journey

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