

# Fall Chimes



Sept. 2013–Nov. 2013

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.3, No.1

## Make Time for Fellowship & Faith

**S**t. Jamesers will have ample opportunities for deepening their faith and relationships within an array of retreats and pilgrimages over the next nine months.

They begin with our annual visit to Shrine Mont in October, always a satisfying combination of study, social and worship activities in the cool autumn splendor of the historic Diocesan property in the Shenandoah mountains. In December, the Rev. Caroline Parkinson will lead an Advent retreat right at church to help center and quiet our hearts in anticipation of Christ's arrival in the world.

WomanKind returns for its fifth iteration February 7-8, with a provocative and passionate lineup of Godly women whose stories of faith, generosity and service will once again create an environment for love, worship and learning. The quiet and sacred space of the Society of St. John the Evangelist monastery in Cambridge will host April 3-6 what is becoming our regular once a year pilgrimage to this wise and holy order.

Finally and, perhaps, most anticipated of our spiritual adventures, a group led by the Rev. Ann Dieterle will walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain, the so-called "Way of St. James" in the northern part of the country. Details are below on all.

### **Annual Parish Retreat Weekend At Shrine Mont October 18-20,2013 Orkney Springs, Virginia**

The historic Shrine Mont retreat center offers a beautiful setting for St. James's annual fall retreat in the mountains! Participants will have the opportunity to unplug, relax, and enjoy the gorgeous fall mountain scenery and each other's company. There will be activities for adults and children, delicious meals, and comfortable accommodations. This is a special weekend for our parish and is designed to be fun for all ages and stages, young and older, singles and families. Cost for the weekend is:

- Adults and youth 13 and older \$165 per person double occupancy;
- \$185 single occupancy;
- 8-12 year olds \$115;
- 4-7 year olds \$65;
- 0-3 year olds \$60 for babysitting costs.

The cost includes lodging for two nights, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch and all programming. Space is limited. Register online. Contact Anita Lisk.



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**Find us online all the time:**



*please turn to p.13*



The Rev. Randolph Marshall  
Hollerith, Rector

## Another New Beginning

**M**y friends, another summer draws to a close. I hope your summer has been a fruitful one. I hope you have had some time for rest, recreation and an opportunity to enjoy quality time with family and friends. The summer months have always been for me a time for refueling, re-centering myself, regaining a little perspective and calm in anticipation of so much hectic activity the rest of the year. This summer I read six books, watched three bad summer movies, body surfed at the beach, fished with friends, got my fat self back into the gym and tried never to get up before 7:00 a.m. I taught myself some of the complexities of Microsoft Excel and found that process immensely satisfying in a tragically geeky sort of way. I wore khakis a lot, my clerical collar only when I had too, and discovered three new bourbons. I laughed with my kids, stayed up way too late with my bride and brushed enough fur off Boo to stuff a sofa cushion. All in all, it's been a great summer.

But everything must change; change is the one constant in this life. The lazy days of summer always give way to a faster paced fall. While I will miss my summer schedule, I am excited about the return of the program year at St. James's. Our staff of dedicated lay people and clergy works hard to create, maintain, and shepherd dozens of programs and ministries because they believe in this community. They believe in the efficacy of worshipping together, studying together, serving others together. They believe in the power

of the Holy Spirit present and moving through our church family whenever we are focused on Christ and Christ's work in the world. As a result, you will find in this mailing numerous opportunities to engage in ministry. Whether you want to take a class, join a Bible study, discuss a good book, sing in a choir, cook in the kitchen, serve the homeless, go on a mission trip, work with kids, help lead worship, or attend any one of four different worship services on a Sunday morning, there is something for everyone at St. James's.

Yes, the summer is over but what lies ahead is full of rich opportunity. Opportunity to serve God, to learn from one another, to better know our selves, and to deepen our connection to the Holy Mystery that lies at the heart of all things. I hope you will take a few minutes to sit down and read about everything our community has to offer. Then I hope you will prayerfully consider where you want to fit into the life our vibrant parish. Because every person who considers St. James's his or her spiritual home enriches our common life. We need your engagement and participation to be the kind of place God calls us to be. So, let's get started.

Blessings,

### Regular Fall Schedule

#### Sundays through Memorial Day

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Family Eucharist
- 10:15 a.m. Christian Education
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II or Morning Prayer, Rite I
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Mass

#### Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday



### New venue, same great music and worship!

Join us in Valentine Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.



Mark Whitmire, Director of Music  
Virginia Whitmire, Organist and Choir Director

## Italy Tour 2013

**O**ur tour of Italy was blessed and wonderful in every way. The choir sang beautifully and truly showed the face of Christ throughout the trip. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I have included some photos. I hope they give you some feeling for the trip. It was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a great honor for St. James's.

*Tuesday, 25 June*

*Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Miracoli, Venice*  
6:30 p.m. concert



This was the second day of the tour. We were still a bit jet-lagged, but the choir quickly rose to the occasion. After a rehearsal in the church

we gathered in a piazza outside for an impromptu performance of a spiritual. It was fun to see people peeking from their balconies to see and hear the music. We had a full house for our hour-long concert. The audience response was overwhelming.

*Wednesday, 26 June*

*St. Mark's Basilica, Venice*  
6:45 p.m. Mass



For choral musicians San Marco is Mecca. We sang music by Gabrieli and Monteverdi

in the place where the music was first heard. During quiet moments in the service, I could imagine their faces peering out from behind the organ.

*Friday, 28 June*

*Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (Il Duomo), Florence*  
2:00 p.m. performance



In Il Duomo we stood in a large

circle and sang Gabrieli's 8-part motet 'Jubilate Deo.' The sound was awesome as it reverberated through one of the largest domes in the world. Just before our indoor performance we had given an outdoor flash mob-style performance of two spirituals. Over the course of the tour we gave a dozen of these outdoor performances to the apparent delight of our large and enthusiastic audiences.

*Friday, 28 June*

*Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Ricci, Florence*  
7:00 p.m. concert



Just blocks from Il Duomo, this church

proved to be a little-known jewel. Since the logistical requirements of every space are different the choir had to be extremely flexible. Here we began with a haunting Gregorian chant sung by eight singers as the rest of the choir processed to the front of the church. Singers joined the chant as they reaching the chancel resulting in a glorious "Alleluia."

*Sunday, 30 June*

*St. Peter's Basilica, Rome*  
5:30 p.m. Mass

There is nothing that can prepare one for singing at St. Peter's. As I walked in the west doors to see the light streaming down on the Bernini altar, my breath was taken away. We gathered in a side chapel to prepare for Mass while a service of Vespers was taking place, allowing us time to absorb the holiness of the place. We began with Britten's 'Hymn to the Virgin' and the choir immediately responded with music that was thoroughly transcendent. At the end of the service the priest said (in Italian), "We thank the Choir of St. James's Church in Richmond, Virginia, for their music." Then, looking toward the choir, he said, "Your singing has truly narrowed the distance between God and man." Again, my breath was taken away. (see photo page 9.)

*Monday, 1 July*

*The Pantheon, Rome*  
Noon concert

This concert was a wonderful dessert to the spiritual feast at St. Peter's. We sang a forty-minute program in a large space that allowed a double-choir arrangement.

This was our fourth choir tour. Each tour has been made possible by the support of so many people of St. James's. Your generosity and faithful support are an inspiration to Virginia and me.

*Soli Deo Gratias.*



*The Rev. Ann Dieterle,  
Associate Rector*

## Everything I Need to Know I Learned from My Dog. Or Baseball.

Okay this isn't really true, but I have learned some important and often spiritual truths from both of these sources.

### What I'm Learning from Baseball

Every season there's a controversial play (or plays) in baseball that renews a now rather old argument: should baseball expand the use of instant replay? For the last five years at least, this has been a significant discussion with people on either side who feel strongly about their position.

On the pro side, the argument is that because of the expanded use of cameras, the average fan watching on TV has a much better view of the game than any single umpire does. The umpires should have the advantage of that set of 'eyes,' and managers should have the right to request the use of the replay, much like they do in pro football.

On the con side, the argument is that instant replay will slow the game down and take the human element out of it. Whichever way this argument ultimately goes, I love that baseball continues to have it in the first place. People who love the game are sitting down and discussing it and considering what really makes the game authentic, and what changes it can and cannot make and still keep its integrity.

The flip side of those questions – at least for me – is what changes must it make in order to maintain its integrity in

a new era? I'll speak for myself: I could ask these questions more frequently and be all the better for it. And not only to find answers, but because the process of taking time for reflection, for asking questions and having conversations about important issues is all the more important in an era when technological changes are happening at a blinding speed. And at a time when the world is becoming so very small. A couple of examples that spring to mind (and I'm not necessarily assigning judgment to either of them): Google now makes a pair of glasses that is basically a computer that goes on your head. Fabulous! But do we actually want such a thing? We can genetically modify food, and other living things. But is this ethical?

In other words, do we stop to ask the question, "Just because we can, does that mean we should?" Or "Would introducing this change fundamentally alter something that we don't want to fundamentally alter?"

You didn't think I was going there when I introduced the topic of baseball, did you?

Baseball fans can have that conversation and then go back to enjoying the game that they love so much. Can we learn to do that in politics? Or in matters of religion? Or have we become too polarized?

Also, it doesn't pay to cheat.

### What I've learned from the Dogs in my Life

- Daily walks are good for your body and your soul.
- Wag more, bark less – you might have seen that one on a bumper sticker. It makes a good personal philosophy I think.
- Don't take yourself too seriously.
- If you have food to eat, shelter over your head, and someone who loves you – you have enough.
- Gratitude is a good attitude for life.
- And, most importantly, love the ones you're with – and make sure that they know that you love them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann +".



The Rev. Carmen Germino,  
Assistant Rector

## Travel Thoughts from Home and Abroad

**F**irst, thank you all so much for the love and support you have shown to Matt and me as we began our married life together this summer. We feel incredibly blessed to be part of such a caring community of faith. We have been happily overwhelmed by the number of warm wishes and congratulations we have received. Special thanks goes out to the Hospitality Committee, who hosted a lovely reception for us on the Sunday after our wedding, and to the talented Gillian Robinson, who baked a beautiful and delicious cake for the occasion.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our June 7 Friends & Family Concert, and thank you to the performers who blessed us with their music. We were delighted with the large turnout and we were blown away by the number of items contributed for World Pediatric Project. The collection of toys and toiletries has been delivered to WPP, and they will make a huge difference to the families who come to Richmond for medical care. The WPP staffers were particularly excited about the children's books in Spanish and the Dora the Explorer coloring book! Thank you again for helping us to celebrate our marriage by supporting this important organization.

We would also like to offer our deep gratitude to Randy, the Whitmires, and the choir community, who made it possible for us to have a very special "luna di miele" in Italy after the wedding. We

spent a few days on our own in Lake Como before we met up with the choir in Venice and embarked on a fantastic week of touring and singing.

While traveling in Italy this summer, Matt and I enjoyed unplugging from some of the daily realities of our lives in the U.S. We were without cell phones, laptops, GPS, and our cars for the duration of the trip. Instead of cars, we got around Italy via trains, boats, buses, and our feet. We felt particularly proud of ourselves for mastering the subway system in Rome. For just a few euro, we could be transported all the way across town in a matter of minutes, bypassing the Eternal City's notorious traffic jams. It was amazing to experience such efficient and modern public transportation in such an ancient place.

Our beloved Richmond may not be as ancient or populous as Rome, but we could also benefit greatly from a system of transit that allows residents and visitors to quickly and easily get across town. There is a movement to make rapid transit a reality in our city. This is certainly not a new idea, and yet right now there seems to be new energy and momentum for bringing rapid transit to the River City. Here are several reasons why rapid transit is on my radar as a young(ish) professional and as a Christian:

- Unemployment is high in our region, and so are poverty levels. But willing workers often cannot afford

cars and cannot reliably get to the areas where jobs are available using the current bus routes.

- An education is one of the most important tools for escaping the cycle of poverty. But few, if any, of the region's community colleges are currently accessible by public transportation.
- It would be easier for people living in suburban areas to commute downtown for work, for dining, and entertainment (even church!) without worrying about parking.
- The first successful electric street railway installation in the United States was in Richmond. Rapid transit is already an important part of our city's history.
- The riders of rapid transit would be a diverse group – old, young, black, white, rich, poor, urban, and suburban...I think it will feel like the Kingdom of Heaven on those rapid transit lines! And I believe if Jesus lived in Richmond today, he would be a rider of public transit.

Those are just a few of the reasons why I feel passionate about this effort. If you would like to be a part of the core group of Doers working on this issue, please let me know. We're calling ourselves the RVA Rapid Transit Advocacy Team and we could use your help!

Faithfully,

*Carmen*



*The Rev. Alex Riffée,  
Assistant Rector*

## **Building Community may be Helped by Technology**

**I**n the southernmost tip of West Virginia, I write to you while watching the youth mission team bond through board games, music, and conversation. It is our first night at the Highland Education Project in Welch, WV. We have just finished our dinner and we are excited about the work we will be doing around the area, whatever that may end up being.

Though the adult chaperones and youth have been a part of our church in some way, I find it amazing how easy it is for us to feel like strangers in the midst of fellow members of St. James's (as you know, we are a large congregation). It took a 5 hour bus ride and a hot meal, but whatever sense of hesitation or unknowing that lay in the hearts of these youth has disappeared. There is a community built around us, which will forever be unique and I look forward to seeing what this sense of purpose and identity can achieve in just a few days.

Small gatherings like this always bring me to reflect on the idea of community. We talk about it so much in sermons, but I often wonder what it is, how we build it, and the importance of seeking it in multiple forms. Recently, there has been much talk in the news about the effect of technology and social media on human relations. Some tout that it is trying to replace traditional forms of interaction, which lessens the efficacy of caring for another. Others believe it can be used as a way to create

community with individuals who may have never been able to share experiences with each other in another manner.

Ultimately, much of the dialogue has either focused on the extreme rejection of technology or the extreme adoption of technology as a replacement for traditional forms of community building. As a self-identifying member of Generation Y (a Millennial), I believe that there is and should be a middle ground between the two.

As the church, no matter how we look at it, we are both in the world and of the world. We must actively respond to what the world throws at us and try to be beacons on how the world can be more like God's Kingdom in heaven. In order to do this, however, we must uphold with great integrity who we are (the traditions we maintain and the ways we build community), while constantly seeking out who God calls us to be in the world (meeting people where they are and the differing modes they experience with one another).

This year at St. James's I wish to delve more deeply into the manner in which technology can help build community, not in spite of meeting with one another in traditional ways, but in addition to it. I wonder if a thought or resource online made available to parishioners when they find themselves in need can have a lasting impact on their lives in ways that are similar to the community building we experience

together on Sundays. Could it even have a stronger impact? I do not know the answers to these questions, but as I watch the youth grow together this night in our small house in West Virginia, I find myself excited to seek out new ways of building community in our church family.

If you find yourself in need of spiritual growth in a way that we have been unable to provide, I would love to hear your thoughts. We might be able to find resources that could reach many others with similar needs in new and personal ways. As we start our new program year, I ask you to ponder on the idea of Christian community. How do you find meaning in the environs you currently participate in and how can you help us be doers of God's word in seeking out new ways to build up Christ's body on earth? May God bless us as we work together in finding these answers.

With love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex". The script is cursive and fluid.



Becky Page  
Director of Children's Ministries

# ... for Children

## Learn, Serve and Grow

The halls of the Michaux House have been very quiet since Sunday school ended in May (with the exception of a very fun and lively week of Vacation Bible School at the end of June!). That will change on September 8 when we welcome all the children of St. James's from age two through the fifth grade as we begin a new year of Sunday school.

While working on lesson plans and recruiting teachers for the upcoming Sunday school year, I have been thinking about what it is that I would like the children to take away from their time at St. James's on Sunday mornings. It is actually quite simple. I want them to be exposed to stories from the Bible, our faith traditions, and to have the opportunity to give of themselves by serving others. In doing this, I hope that the seeds of their faith will be planted.

It is often challenging as parents and teachers to know if the messages we are sharing with our children are getting through to them. We often wonder if they are listening or if they understand. Are the seeds of faith taking hold in

their minds and in their lives? The answers come in surprising ways. Here are a few examples of the growing faith of our children for us to see: A three year old hearing the *Godly Play* lesson of Noah's Ark asked, "Where are the super heros in the story?" He thoughtfully considered the response of the quick thinking storyteller who said, "God and Noah are the super heros in this story." A first grader's response during a Lenten lesson as to why Jesus rode a donkey into to Jerusalem: "Because he was the Prince of Peace." And, a child's question after learning in Children's Chapel on Palm Sunday that Jesus was sentenced to death: "Why did Caesar release Barab-bas and not Jesus?" The children of St. James's are hearing stories from the Bible and wrestling with what they mean to them. The seeds of faith are being planted.

Acts of service are another important part of the Children's Ministries at St. James's. In the past few months, our children have decorated place mats and posters to welcome CARITAS

families to St. James's, generously shared their coins to support scholarships for students to attend school in Gonaives, Haiti, and expressed interest to serve as youth volunteers at VBS next year. Our children are learning what it means to give, help and serve others. The seeds of service are being planted.

I hope to see you and your children at St. James's for Sunday school this year. Together we can watch as they hear the stories of the Bible and learn to share themselves with others through service. Together we can watch the seeds of faith grow in our children and in our church.

Sowing the seeds of faith in our children requires the efforts of many volunteers. Please contact me at [beckypage@doers.org](mailto:beckypage@doers.org) if you are interested to help with any of the Children's Ministries.

Blessings,

### Children's Ministries

*Hands On* Sunday School – For 2-3 year-olds, with biblical themes and stories explored through storytelling, songs, games and crafts.

*Godly Play* – For Kindergarten and First Grade, based in storytelling and wondering, using the language that our students identify with and understand.

*Growing in Faith* – For Second through Fifth Grades, our Workshop Rotation Model for our elementary Christian study

classes with scriptural stories and faith lessons through workshops in art, music, cooking, games, videos, storytelling, and science. Our theme is "Living God's Way."

#### Worship Services

Children are welcome at all worship services. A children's homily with a clergy member is held in the Children's Chapel during the 9:00 a.m. service. Upon their return they experience the celebration of the Eucharist in the Chancel and then

with their families at the altar. All baptized children are welcome to receive communion.

#### Nursery Care

Childcare is available during both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday morning services, during the Sunday Christian study, Wednesday night programs and special services. This ministry is made possible with parent volunteers and experienced caregivers.



The Memorial Concert recognized our Armed Forces with music and more.



Many new treasures were added to our new time capsule at the Centennial Service and the capsule was put back under the cornerstone.



Some of the Richmond Outreach Mission team visited Virginia Supportive Housing to help clean.



Ken Hoen was on the Richmond Outreach Ministry team working construction in the East End.



Vacation Bible School was inside and outside fun for nearly 70!





# Did This Summer



Youth missionaries spent a week working at the Highland Educational Project, an ecumenical outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia.



The latest team to travel to Honduras continued our work building and modifying the school at Our Little Roses.



Peter Paul Development Center's garden got a makeover in July thanks to our weekend project warriors (l to r): Kaelie Jager, Parker Daniels, Robbie Siegfried, Goldie Daniels and Kendall Daniels and leaders Alex Riffie and Bob Siegfried.



St. James's Festival Choir sang at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Italy, the international church of the Christian faith.

# WomanKind 2014

## Truth and Dare - February 7-8, 2014

**W**omen of St. James's: Mark your calendars, and invite your friends! *WomanKind 2014: Truth and Dare* will host a powerful lineup of insightful and inspiring personalities whose presentations will explore the universal truths, strengths and vulnerabilities we face as women. Their stories about finding light in the darkness, defining their own truth, and daring to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges will be a source of spiritual strength for individuals, as the WomanKind experience strengthens our church community.

WomanKind 2014 will feature the following dynamic speakers:



**Glennon Doyle Melton** Glennon's popular blog, *Momastery*, celebrates and wrestles with her family, marriage, motherhood, faith, addiction and recovery. Her blog essays were recently compiled into the *New York Times* best seller *Carry On Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed*. Glennon's writing uses her wit,

courage and irreverence to call us to accept ourselves exactly as we are today, but also, incidentally, inspires us to live bolder, more meaningful lives. Read Glennon's work at: [momastery.com](http://momastery.com)



**Nora Gallagher** Nora is an American writer of memoir, fiction and essays whose work, as one reviewer put it, "is renewing the language of ultimate concerns." Her most recent book, *Moonlight Sonata at the Mayo Clinic*, is a memoir that explores her experience with a baffling affliction poised to take her sight. A map of illness, uncertainty, and faith that is both meditative and highly relatable for anyone who has experienced life-threatening illness or supported a loved one who has faced one. Read more about Nora at: [noragallagher.org](http://noragallagher.org)



**Marie Monville** Marie is the author of *One Light Still Shines*, a novel about how faith has been her guiding light in the dark days after her husband held an Amish school house hostage, killing five children and then himself in October of 2006. Watch a preview of Marie's story at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK7t2e3ytIE>.

WomanKind will be held on February 7-8, 2014. The Friday evening reception will feature fabulous food, fellowship, music and a forum with our keynote speaker. Saturday will offer a series of presentations and workshops where we will further explore the theme of *Truth and Dare*.

Follow our progress at <http://womankindrichmond.com>. Tickets will go on sale in September, with an early registration discount offered to members of St. James's.

WomanKind 2014 promises to be another powerful, not-to-be-missed experience.

## What's Coming Up in Servant Ministry



Nancy Warman,  
Director of Servant Ministry

### Congregation Ministry Challenge

The ACTS Advocacy Committee invites children and adults of St. James's to "join forces" to meet a special ministry challenge that begins in September. Beginning mid-September keep your eyes open for a brightly painted blue house that will have lots of open windows! It will be our ACTS house, built by our young people and those of St. John's United Church of Christ, along with adult lay leaders, Kyle Martin, Matt Presson, and youth minister, Alex Riffée. The open windows are for you – children and adults – to put your contributions of personal hygiene items and household products, all to go to support the individuals and families served by ACTS, a signature ministry of St. James's and a faith-based ministry of congregations that provides emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, mortgage, and other basic needs that will help families sustain housing stability. Our challenge as a congregation will be to fill the house! Week by week we will witness the addition of gifts until the house is filled to the brim!

As we begin a new program year, this ministry challenge is a creative and exciting opportunity to engage our entire congregation in ministry. Advocacy team, young people, adult lay leaders, and all of us can participate. We encourage parents to take this opportunity to talk to children about the needs

of others and to let them go shopping to choose the gifts that they will bring. Let them come each Sunday to see the

#### Suggested Gift Items for ACTS House

<i>Toothbrush</i>	<i>Toilet Tissue</i>
<i>Toothpaste</i>	<i>Kleenex</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>Dish detergent</i>
<i>Deodorant</i>	<i>Laundry detergent</i>
<i>Band-Aids</i>	<i>Bleach</i>
<i>Combs/brushes</i>	<i>Paper towels</i>
<i>Female Products</i>	<i>Paper napkins</i>

house as gifts "grow" and encourage them to be part of the challenge. The house will be built on wheels and be collapsible. Once we have filled it, our gifts will go to ACTS, and the house will be shared with all of the 40+ partner congregations so that each one can participate in a congregational ministry challenge. St. James's advocacy team and congregation serve as a model for ministry! Our advocacy team creates a "template" for other congregations to be engaged in ACTS ministry.

Your gifts and our ministry model reach far and wide into our local community. Thank you for helping us meet the challenge of helping others. What a wonderful way for "doers" to begin a new program year!

#### Servant Ministry Sign-Up

As we begin a new church program year in September, it is an opportunity to think about your ministry. If you have expressed interest in a new ministry and

have not yet been connected, please let me know (nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779 ext. 333) and I will get you in contact with the appropriate lay leader. If you want to sign up for a new ministry, please find Every Member's Ministry cards in the Narthex, complete them and leave them in the designated box. If you would like to discuss ministry opportunities and need some help in discerning your call to ministry, please contact me and I will be happy to meet with you. Every member's ministry is just that – ministry opportunity for each and every one!



*Nancy Warman*



## Why I've Spent My Life with Preschoolers

by Debbie Lickey

Executive Director, St. James's Children's Center

**G**reetings! I am delighted to join you as the new Executive Director of St. James's Children's Center, and greatly appreciate the dedication and past service of Geraldine Johnson, who developed and maintained the Center for over 25 years. The Center is indeed privileged to partner with St. James's Episcopal Church as we embark on the next step in the journey of serving children in the Richmond area.

For the past 36 years I have focused on various aspects of early childhood development, and have often found myself wondering what makes this stage of life so fascinating. Of course, the children are cute... and if I had kept a journal of all the interesting things that have been said to me by preschoolers over the years, I could have easily written a best-seller by now (I'm just not sure if it would be a comedy or a book of wisdom!). But the actual reason for this professional interest lies in the research: the most important period of any person's life is between birth and five years old.

The current technology of brain imaging confirms that it is the interaction of genes and experience which shape the developing brain and the executive functions such as attention, perseverance, impulse control and sociability.\* James Heckman, a former Nobel Prize winner and one of the nation's top econ-



omists studying human development, is on a mission to inform policy makers and economists about the importance of this critical developmental period as it relates to children, families and society as a whole.

Mr. Heckman – along with a consortium of economists, neuroscientists, sociologists, developmental psychologists, and statisticians – has been analyzing long-term studies including the High Scope Perry Preschool Study, implemented in the '60s, in which children were randomly assigned to two groups. The first group attended early childhood programs while the second (the control group) did not. These children were followed for 40 years, and the results were astounding.

Children who attended an early childhood program outscored the children in the control group in every metric: IQ, language skills, achievement tests and literacy exams. Even more powerful were the differences observed as these children moved into adulthood. Those who had participated in early childhood education programs were more likely to graduate from high



school, attend college, hold steady jobs and own their own home. By contrast, the children in the control group were more likely to drop out of high school, commit crimes and require treatment for mental health issues. The "return on investment" in early childhood programs, according to Mr. Heckman and other professionals, is estimated to range from 7% to 15%.

In summary: learning experiences gained through early childhood development programs have a significant impact on individual brain development in addition to very positive outcomes in terms of an educated and skilled workforce, a responsible community, a thriving



economy and engaged citizens.

That is why I am committed to quality childhood development programs, and so excited about working with you here at the St. James's Children's Center!

\* The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2011). Building the Brain's "Air Traffic Control" System: How Early Experiences Shape the Development of Executive Function: Working Paper No. 11. Retrieved from [www.developingchild.harvard.edu](http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu)

*Fellowship and Faith continued from cover*

### **St. James's Annual Advent Retreat**

**December 7, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

So much of the preparation for Christmas is secular – programs, parties, decorations, shopping – and it's lovely, fun, exciting, and expensive, but it really has little to do with our belief in the Incarnation and the story of God's radical love for humankind.

How we keep Advent and how we prepare for Christmas will determine how open we are to the love of God in Christ and how ready we are to receive the prince of peace in our midst. We will seek to create a special space for prayer, silence, and time so that we can heal our hearts and rehear the nativity story and its power. Led by the Rev. Caroline Parkinson.

### **WomanKind 2014: Truth and Dare**

**February 7-8, 2014**

The fifth gathering of the faithful at St. James's under the auspices of the ECW at St. James's, WomanKind will be a day and a half of fellowship, worship, study and prayer to enrich the lives of all women. See more on page 10.



### **Society of St. John the Evangelist Retreat April 3-6, 2014 Cambridge, MA**

St. James's has a special relationship with the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE), the oldest Anglican men's order, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We join the brothers at the Society for an

extended weekend of quiet, companionship and renewal at

the SSJE monastery. This Lenten retreat will be 'directed' and led by one of the brothers. We arrive between 4:00 -5:00 p.m. Thursday and depart after lunch (approximately 2:30 p.m.) on Sunday. Air travel is arranged on your own. Space is limited to eight rooms, so sign up early!

For questions or information regarding the content of the retreat, please contact the Rev. Ann Dieterle.

### **Camino de Santiago: A Pilgrimage to Spain**

**June 22-30, 2014**



Also known as "The Way of St. James", this pilgrimage has existed for more than 1,000 years. Legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela. It was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times, together with Rome and Jerusalem. For information, please contact the Rev. Ann Dieterle.

*The Interview continued from p.15*

then crafts a budget based on what the parish has committed. This often makes for very difficult decisions, for there are no categories in our budget that are easy to cut.

**Chimes:** What might surprise St. Jamesers about Annual Giving?

**Charlie:** The ability of our parish to serve God and neighbor depends entirely on the level of gifts we all direct to St. James's. Our parish is both blessed and challenged by the fact that we are not dependent on a few large gifts. Our largest pledge is but a small fraction of our budget. It takes gifts by hundreds of us to support the needs and opportunities of our

parish community. Every gift, no matter the size, helps our church serve God.

**Brent:** As Charlie said, it takes gifts by the hundreds to support everything St. James's is and does – every gift counts. What surprises me the most about Annual Giving is how much St. James's accomplishes every year with its budget, with the gifts from its members. If we could increase participation in annual giving and increase the level of gifts only slightly, the incredible energy of St. James's parish, clergy and staff would create an exponential return on that incremental giving.

# Stewardship



Chip Woodson,  
Director of Stewardship and  
Development

## The Giving Season Approaches

### ***The Feast is coming!***

**October 23 – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Science Museum of Virginia**

**T**he ever popular Feast of St. James's! Same place, same time – the Wednesday before Pledge Sunday. This is an occasion when the entire parish can come together in fellowship to enjoy a delightful dinner and superb musical entertainment. The Feast is a time to celebrate the many ministries of the church in thanksgiving for the truly joyful blessings we have at St. James's.

It is an opportunity to reflect on how special a parish we have as we contemplate our personal stewardship pledge. When we consider the neighbors we serve, both here and abroad, through our outreach and mission ministries, the pastoral care that we as parishioners receive, the education and stimulation for our spiritual growth, the unbelievable worship and music services we experience on a weekly basis, and the energy and enthusiasm shown by the Doers of the Word, our hearts are filled with gratitude.

This year's Feast co-chairs are Shaila Menees and Shelton Way. The Annual Giving co-chairs are Charlie Whitaker

and Brent Winn, joined by Geoff Sisk and Peggy Crowley, who will serve on the Annual Giving committee. Look for more information as we get closer to the date.

St. James's is fortunate to have Doers as parishioners who have passion, energy and enthusiasm for the ministries of this parish. We are dependent on every member for their participation in lay ministries and for their financial support. Each year we call on volunteers to "Do" the work and ask for a monetary

pledge. When everyone joins in, lives are changed for good!

This year, Charlie Whitaker and Brent Winn have graciously accepted the call to serve as the Annual Giving Co-Chairs. On the next page you can read an interview

where they shared their thoughts on Annual Giving and challenge all parishioners to be a part of the amazingly rewarding work of this church.

Thank you and God's blessings,

*Chip*

Dear St. James's Congregation,

What a joyous occasion it was at our Centennial Celebration on June 2! My heart is filled with gratitude for the many ways our parish came together to remember our past and to support our future. As I hope you all know by now, we raised \$1,070,408 for the St. James's Endowment Fund in honor of our 100 years on West Franklin Street.

We set out less than a year ago with a small, but hard-working, volunteer committee to raise \$1,000,000. That we exceeded our goal is testimony to the depth of our congregation's commitment to the ministry of St. James's. I am humbled by the generosity and love I saw witnessed throughout this project.

I especially want to thank Eleanor Angle, Frances Caldwell, DeWitt Casler, Peggy Crowley, Jane Dowrick, Ruth Ellett, Ida Farinholt, Jim Goggins, Dave Johnson, and Charlie Whitaker for their dedication and a special thanks to Britt Van Deusen and Ida Farinholt for heading up the June 2 party.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the whole parish for its enthusiasm, generosity, and commitment throughout this campaign.

*Cathy*

Cathy McGehee, Chair

# The Interview

**W**e sat down with the co-chairs of our Annual Giving campaign, Charlie Whitaker and Brent Winn, to talk about their ministry of stewardship:

**Chimes:** What persuaded you to co-chair Annual Giving for two years?

**Charlie:** Quite simply, I am doing it because Randy and Eleanor Angle asked me. I admit, however, that I did not jump at the opportunity. I then thought about what God and our church have given me and my family, and how little they have ever asked of me. So when I was asked to offer some small measure of my time and energy to help our church serve God and neighbor, how could I say no? St. James's supplies my spiritual nourishment; offers a sanctuary of time with my thoughts and prayers before the beginning of a hectic week; provides Christian formation for my children; and deepens the beliefs and values of my entire family. Norvell, our children and I are truly blessed to be part of this community.

**Brent:** When I served on the Vestry years ago, I remember observing that the Annual Giving chairs had the toughest job of all of the lay, volunteer roles in the church. I remember thinking to myself, "I'd never agree to take that on." My involvement with the Fan the Flame campaign and the more recent Centennial Campaign only confirmed my initial observation. However, my volunteer roles in other non-profit organizations and my current role as the CFO of the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls have taught me that annual operating funding is the most important to an organization, that fuels the mission, that every non-profit organization depends on for salaries, utilities and, in the case of St. James's, vibrant mission, outreach, ministry, music and other programs.

**Chimes:** Why do you support Annual Giving at St. James's?



Charlie Whitaker  
Co-chair, Annual Giving



Brent Winn  
Co-chair, Annual Giving

**Charlie:** For me, it's those words over our altar: "Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only." When I stare at those words, I often feel I fall short of that standard. In fact, on some Sunday mornings I have a hard time even hearing the Word with so many of life's distractions bombarding my thoughts. A few Sundays ago, however, a few words took hold with me, even though I have recited them many times. As we were reading the General Thanksgiving, I paused as we beseeched God "that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service." So it's not enough to hear the Word, and it's not enough to speak the Word. God asks us to live the Word, by serving God and neighbor. Stewardship is a way all of us can return to God what our lives have provided to us through His grace.

**Brent:** St. James's is entirely reliant on our support for its missions, Christian education, music, outreach and other programs – entirely funded by annual giving. As we enter the annual giving season, I cannot help but think about how St. James's has impacted my life, from participating in the first mission trip to Honduras, to the support from Randy and all of St. James's when my parents died, to Dana officiating at my marriage, to cajoling the kids to attend church on Sunday mornings, St. James's does so much. St. James's has been an integral part of my life for over twenty years, and I know annual giving is critical to St. James's continuing to follow

its "Be Ye Doers" motto. St. James's is something different to each of us and changes all of us in different ways. As I reflect on my gift, I not only think about supporting all that St. James's does for me, individually, but also the impact that my gift will have, when combined with everyone's gifts, for others who are not as fortunate.

**Chimes:** What do you want people to consider as we head into Stewardship season?

**Charlie:** I asked Randy this very question. After all, people give to St. James's for many different reasons. Some are motivated by the challenge of keeping our aging physical infrastructure running. Some are moved by the many ways St. James's enriches us personally. Many others want to help transform lives for the better by supporting our outreach, pastoral care, music, worship or Christian formation ministries. Randy cut through all of that and suggested that we simply ask ourselves: "Have we been blessed this year?" If so, stewardship offers an opportunity to thank God for those blessings by returning some of them to Him.

**Brent:** St. James's "numbers" are pretty compelling. Did you know that over the past four years, St. James's membership has increased by forty percent, but our overall budget has only increased by twenty percent? Buildings and grounds costs, with our beautiful new spaces, has increased forty-seven percent, but mission and outreach funding from the operating budget has only increased eight percent. Salaries for our incredible clergy and staff have increased fifteen percent, largely due to the addition of new staff positions, not from increased compensation. To develop our annual budget, the vestry waits until the parish has "spoken" with its gifts for the year,

*please turn to page 13*



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