



Fall Chimes



Sept. 2014–Nov. 2014

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.4, No.1

St. James's Fall Embraces Change and Tradition

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Welcome Mary Beth... page 11

Find us online all the time:



A return to the three service Sunday schedule, the picnic, the inaugural day of Sunday classes for children, youth and adults – these are all respected traditions at St. James's. Yet, every year also turns up new opportunities and schedules, and this fall's season is no different.

September 7 is Opening Sunday and resets all our schedules. This is the first day of Christian Study for children. It is also the day for the Parish Picnic, which this year returns to its traditional home at Rock Bottom, the Gottwald family retreat on the James River just east of the Huguenot Bridge. Barbeque by Brock's and Oak Lane acoustic music are traditions as well for this well-loved parish social.

September 14 is the new date for our Every Member's Ministry forum, set at the opening of the season so that parishioners will have an early opportunity to learn about and choose ministries in which to be "Doers" all year. Middle school youth classes will start this Sunday under our new Director, Mary Beth Abplanalp. This Sunday will also start the schedule for our fall Stewardship campaign, which will be conducted over six weeks and culminate with the Feast of St. James's on Wednesday, October 22, located again at the Science Museum of Virginia Thalheimer Pavilion.

September 21 is the start date for adult Christian Study, including the Forum,

Bible studies and the high school youth classes. The following Sunday, September 28, will feature the Bluegrass Mass at the 9:00 a.m. service.

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals will remain on the first Sunday in October, the 5th. Sunday classes will be skipped this day in favor of the fun of four-footed, feathered and furry friends. On October 12, we will conduct the United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering to support outreach and ministries.

October 26 will be the Sunday for a Newcomers "Meet and Greet" between morning services. November 2, All Saints Sunday, will feature our traditional procession of baptismal banners from the past year as well as our Necrology of lives our *(please turn to page 13)*

Regular Schedules

Sundays, Sept. 7- May 17

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 10:15 a.m. Christian Study
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Prayer, Rite I (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Office Hours

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



A Great Summer and an Exciting Fall

*The Rev. Randolph Marshall
Hollerith, Rector*

I hope all of you have had a blessed summer. I know I have! Thank you for the opportunity to finish the sabbatical I started way back in 2007. My time away with family was a precious gift. From Richmond to Virginia Beach to Big Sky, Montana and back to Richmond again – we fished together, hiked together, rode the waves together, laughed together and just plain relaxed together. Marshall is now 20 and Eliza is almost 17 – our kids are growing up. Melissa and I are very aware of how precious these days have been to have the four of us together.

In July I also enjoyed some quiet time apart. The brothers at The Society of St. John the Evangelist Monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts were kind enough to host me for a five day silent retreat. I was blessed to share their hospitality and to pray with them five times a day. This silent retreat provided me with a wonderful opportunity to think, pray, and listen for God's presence in my life. It was a fruitful time. Thank you for allowing me to be away some this summer and I am excited to begin our fall program year at St. James's.

As always, change is the one constant in life and our parish staff is undergoing some changes this summer. I am thrilled to welcome Mary Beth Abplanalp as our new Director of Youth and Young Adults. Mary Beth's first day in the office was August 4 and she hit the ground running. Mary Beth and her husband Chris are great additions to our parish family and I hope you will join me in welcoming them to St. James's. At the end of August, Ann Dieterle began a



new phase in her career after more than four years of wonderful ministry among us. We will miss Ann and the many contributions she has made to our parish but I am happy for her and proud of the new opportunities that await her. Later this year we will begin a search for a new Associate Rector but in the meantime, I am pleased to announce that our own Dr. Mark Cooper has agreed to serve as our interim Associate Rector for Adult Christian Formation. As you know, Mark is retired and currently serves only part-time at St. James's. As our Interim Associate Rector his hours will increase and he will take the lead in all our programming around adult Christian education. I am very grateful to Mark for his willingness to help us out during this time of transition and pleased to have him serving in this capacity.

In recognition of her fantastic ministry since joining our staff in 2011, Carmen Germino will no longer be our Assistant Rector but she will become our Associate Rector. This title change does

not affect her job responsibilities but rather it is a promotion that takes note of her growth and maturity in ordained parish ministry. Her work has been invaluable and she is an esteemed and respected colleague. When you see her, I hope you will thank Carmen for her good work and congratulate her on this promotion.

Blessings to you all and I look forward to seeing you at church on Sunday.

Faithfully,



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

Join a Choir This Fall

Last Easter Sunday the choirs processed for the first time with our stunning new banner, hand-crafted by Vienna Cobb Anderson. Inspired by a Picasso painting, the banner is an appropriate depiction of music at St. James's. Bright, ebullient, eclectic, always moving, morphing, yet grounded, joyful, free, colorful, enriching, praising, thankful, powerful, life-giving, life-sustaining.



The source of all of the above is God. A God not only of color and texture, but the God of song – the Creator of stones that cry, stars that bend their voices together, mountains and hills that break forth into singing,

and trees that not only sing but clap their hands. The Psalmist says, “Sing for the Lord a new song and sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet (Psalm 33:3). How is it possible to do otherwise?”

Our choristers can testify that this is a task they are eager and ready to do. Maybe this is something you feel compelled to do, as well. Consider joining a choir this fall. Our beautiful banner captures the delightfully complex make-up of the choirs at St. James's. The choir chairs are filled with singers of varying degrees of musicianship, from a PhD in music to the woman from a musical family who was told by her big brother that “she could not sing,” and everything in between. Some read music, others learn by ear, some have amazing voices and others are starting on ground level, learning how to produce beautiful sounds. There is a place for everyone to lift their voice in song.

ENSEMBLES

Cherub Choir (Kindergarten to Grade 2)

Rehearses Wednesdays from 4:00 to 4:50 p.m.
Sings monthly at the 9:00 a.m. service

Children's Choir (Grades 3 to 5)

Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Sings monthly at the 9:00 a.m. service

Youth Choir (Grades 6 to 12)

Rehearses Sundays from 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Sings monthly at the 11:15 a.m. service

West Gallery Choir

Choir for adults who want to sing music in a variety of musical styles and want to gain a foundation in music and choral technique

Rehearses Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Sings at the 9:00 a.m. service

Parish Choir

Choir for more experienced singers who want to sing a wide range of choral repertoire in the Anglican tradition.

Rehearses Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Sings at the 11:15 a.m. service

Guitar Ensemble

Rehearses Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Plays at the 9:00 a.m. service

Singing Lessons

Six week singing class beginning September 22
Meets Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or are ready to sign up, let us know at 355-1779, ext. 323, mwhitmire@doers.org or 355-1779, ext. 324, vwhitmire@doers.org

Peace,

Mark and Virginia



The Rev. Ann Dieterle,
Associate Rector

Farewell and Thank You

This July marked my 4th anniversary here at St. James's, several weeks after I began my 10th year in ordained ministry. I am so incredibly grateful for the time I have spent with you here in Richmond. The decision to bring my ministry here to a close was a difficult one, because serving here with you is such a joy and privilege and because I love you all so much. To paraphrase Bilbo Baggins in his farewell speech from *The Lord of the Rings*, "Alas, four years is far too short a time to live among such excellent and admirable doers!" (yup, I'm a nerd). But I have prayerfully discerned that it's time for a new phase in my ministry.

I'm very proud of the ministry that I've shared with you over these last few years.

We've been to New Orleans, South Sudan, Shrine Mont, the Emerald Isle and SSJE. They were very different experiences but the transformation that happened there was a common thread through each occasion. It's those moments when grace breaks through and changes our vision of who God is and who we are that I treasure – what a blessing to be a part of that with so many of you.

We've read a lot of books together—whether with Wine, Women and Wonder, the Brown Bag Book group, Sunday morning Bible Study or Wednesday night Christian Journey. My ministry and my life have been enriched by the

different perspectives and life experiences that you have brought with you and shared in those gatherings.

We hosted WomanKind, the Taste of St. James's and the ECW Lecture Series *Nurturing Every Woman's Spirit*. The depth of talent in this parish still amazes me. But what's even more inspiring is the willingness to give of that talent along with your time.

And we ran a half marathon, walked 115 km across Spain and fielded a fun (if losing) softball team.

And that just scratches the surface! It's the stuff of day-to-day life that has been the most meaningful of all. I am deeply humbled to be allowed into those holy moments: the births and the deaths, the marriages and the day-to-day struggles of the regular, beautiful, and hard stuff that makes up our lives.

Before I begin the next phase of my ministry I feel the need to take some sabbatical time. I am looking forward to spending the next couple of months in Florida with my family. My parents and my brother both live in the St. Petersburg metro area and so it's a great chance to see all of them. It has been a very long time since we've spent more than a couple of weeks together, so I'm grateful for this opportunity. Plus, this is the best time of year to be in Florida! In addition to some R & R, I'm looking forward to some B & B (beaches and baseball). I'm also planning to attend CREDO 2, a conference designed to

support and enrich clergy in their vocations. This proved to be an especially timely invitation.

I once heard Bishop Johnston say that God's sense of vocation is amazing and sometimes mysterious, but that it always leads to grace. Amen! I look forward to hearing what grace is in store for each of us in the coming months and years.

Thank you all. For everything.

Peace and good,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann +". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



*The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Associate Rector*

Be Ye Stewards of the Earth

Dominion. It is a word with many layers here in Virginia, originally nicknamed “Old Dominion” for its loyalty to the British Crown. Eventually, the colony of Virginia would become a leader in claiming independence from England, and the moniker took on a more subversive meaning. A land that was once the dominion of kings and queens became, in theory, a sovereignty of the people. Americans became responsible for the welfare of themselves and one another, though it took a while for true sovereignty to sink in. This idea lives on today. We have dominion over our own lives and our own actions.

As people of faith, we associate the word ‘dominion’ with Genesis. In the beginning, God creates the earth and oceans and plants, and animals, including human beings. We are all creatures, but about humans, God said, “...let them have dominion over [...] every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (1:26) There is so much we do not understand about how our universe came to be, but we put our trust in a few simple beliefs: God is our Creator and God’s Creation is good. It is beautiful and sacred. Our trust in these beliefs mirrors God’s trusting of humans to have dominion over the earth. With dominion comes power, and with power comes responsibility.

Too often, the responsibility of humans’ dominion over the earth has been abused. The earth’s resources have been

treated as disposable. Greed and sloth have too often had dominion over us. I don’t include this part to incite crippling guilt in anyone – that’s not helpful. I mention it because it is part of the story of how we got where we are today.

Where are we today? You have heard the statistics. These are from National Geographic: Sea level could rise between 7 and 23 inches by century’s end. South Seas islands and large parts of Southeast Asia would be flooded. Much of the world’s population is concentrated in vulnerable coastal cities. In the U.S., Louisiana and Florida are especially at risk. Glaciers around the world could melt, causing sea levels to rise while creating water shortages in regions dependent on runoff for fresh water. Strong hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, wildfires, and other natural disasters may become commonplace in many parts of the world. The growth of deserts may also cause food shortages in many places. The ocean’s circulation system could be permanently altered, causing a mini-ice age in Western Europe.

An ever-widening circle of people are becoming ready to change their lifestyle, not out of concern for their own comfort, but to ensure a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. Remember, we have dominion over our own lives and our own actions – we can change course! We can compost and bike to church and radically reduce our energy use. We can do all of this, and

at St. James’s, we are doing it. A new committee has formed, with full support from Randy and the Vestry. Under the able leadership of Britt Van Deusen and Monica Lewis, the committee called Stewards of the Earth is working to pursue green initiatives as a parish and as individual Christians. You will be seeing more from this group in the coming weeks and you are warmly invited to join us in our work!

St. James’s has never been a church that would stand idly by in a crisis. We are doers of the Word, and the Word is this: love one another. Jesus came and taught that the virtues of faith, hope, and love are to have dominion over our lives. An environmental crisis is happening, and it’s also a spiritual crisis. Climate change will hit poor people and our children hardest. We must act. We must exercise our dominion by being caretakers of the home and the future God has entrusted to us. Being a steward of the earth is being a doer of the Word.

Faithfully,

Carmen



Being There

*Kristin Wickersham,
Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

The liturgical church year begins with Advent, but the beginning of the new program year coincides with the beginning of school in September. As our students start school, so does our church. Lately, I've been asking them a simple question, "Why do you go to Sunday school?" What would be your answer? You can probably predict the answers I got: "My parents make me." "I've always done it." "To study the Bible." I even got a sweet "Can I get back to you on that one?" I believe in intentional living, which is a conscious attempt to live according to a set of values or beliefs. In my case, Christian beliefs. So I began to think about this question and the intention of attending spiritual formation classes on Sundays.

One of the questions that I often get from parents of youth is related to this question. We have an attendance requirement for our Confirmation Class. A parent once asked me, "Why does my child have to attend this class so often? Why can't you simply give them the information they need to study at home and have them take a test at the end?" I found this refreshingly open and honest. This parent asked me what a lot of parents are thinking. Why come to classes on Sunday? It's difficult to get up on Sunday mornings, especially if you're an over-scheduled teenager (or the parent of one). St. James's is far from where many of us live. It's not really convenient. Why not simply read the Bible

and study the catechism from a book?

When I have questions like this, I look for the answers in the Bible. Most of the time I don't find answers; I find more questions. I read through my Bible searching and searching for answers, trying to find a pithy quote that would apply, when I began to realize something blindingly obvious. Jesus didn't write it all down for us in a textbook of catechism and theology. Jesus lived it out with his friends. One of the first things that Jesus did at the beginning of his ministry was gather together a group of disciples. Jesus called fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, a doubter, and one who would ultimately betray him. He even gave some of them nicknames, "the Rock" and "the Sons of Thunder." With this group, Jesus taught and lived out his ministry. The things that he did, he did with his friends. They were with him when he taught, blessed, fed, slept, healed, ate, preached, performed miracles, and throughout all the time of his ministry. The Gospels are the stories of Jesus, but they are told in the context of his community of friends and followers. Christian community is the context through which we live out the message of Christ.

I believe that this is key to what happens when we gather together on Sundays to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. We form a community. We form relationships with a variety of other disciples. On any given Sunday in

one grade, I've taught youth from many different neighborhoods, and six different schools. We are all parts of the body of Christ. When we come together on Sundays to study the Gospel and talk about our lives as Christians, the most important thing that we do is reassemble the body of Christ. As more and more parts of the body come together, we breathe life into the fullness of Christ and his presence amongst us becomes more clear. We form a Christian community with which to share our lives, the miraculous and the mundane. We become "Doers." But first, we gather together and become friends.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin".

... for Youth



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

... for Children

Got kids?

St. James's is blessed to have many children in our parish. If you are new to St. James's or your child has entered a new stage, you may be wondering what is offered for our children during worship and for Christian formation.

Worship

For infant through pre-school:

We offer childcare in the nursery every Sunday morning from 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Pagers are provided so parents can be contacted, if necessary. The nursery is located in Gibson Hall through the double doors at the front right of the sanctuary.

For pre-school:

We offer clipboards with the "Sunday Papers" and crayons for pre-schoolers who would like to entertain themselves by coloring pictures related to the Gospel. A selection of board books is also available for children to read during the service. These items are located in the kiosk on the left side of the Narthex.

For pre-kindergarten through third grade:

Each Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. Family Eucharist children from pre-k through 3rd grade are invited to participate in a children's worship program led by our clergy in the Children's Chapel. The children process out of the sanctuary following the Gospel and return to their families during the announcements. Younger children may participate in Children's Chapel if they are accompa-

nied by an adult. The Children's Chapel is located through the double doors at the front right of the sanctuary, across from the nursery.

All children:

During the 9:00 a.m. service, children are invited to gather at the altar rail or sit on the rug in the chancel to get a front row seat for the celebration of the Eucharist. All baptized children are welcomed to receive communion or a blessing at the altar rail at their parents' discretion.

Sunday School (10:15-11:00 a.m.)

Two and three year olds:

We offer our two and three year old pre-school children the *Hands-On Bible* Sunday school program which exposes the children to lessons of the Bible through stories, crafts, and prayers. They also have time for play and to enjoy a snack. The two year old and three year old classrooms are in Room 10 and Room 11 in Gibson Hall which is located through the double doors at the front right of the sanctuary, at the end of the hallway, just past the Atrium.

Four/five year olds, kindergarten and first grade:

The *Godly Play* Sunday school program is offered to children in the four/five year old class, kindergarten, and first grade during the Christian Education hour. In *Godly Play*, the children enter into our parables, sacred stories, silence, and liturgy in order to discover God,

ourselves, one another, and the world around us. The four/five year old class meets in the Children's Chapel. The kindergarten and first grade classes meet in Room 202 and 210 on the second floor of the Michaux House, which is located across Birch Street beside the church.

Second through fifth grades:

The *Growing in Faith* Sunday school rotation model is offered to the students in grades two through five. Each year they explore significant stories of the Bible based on a theme. This year's theme is "Living God's Way." The children are exposed to the same story several weeks in a row through different workshops in areas such as Art, Cooking, Games, Music, Science, Story, and Video. Second through fifth grades meet in classrooms on the second and third floors of the Michaux House. Classroom assignments will be posted for your reference.

All these ministries to the children of St. James's thrive with volunteer support from parents and other parishioners. Please contact Becky Page, Director of Children's Ministries, at 355-1779 x314 or beckypage@doers.org if you would like to participate in any of these vibrant programs.

Blessings,

What We Did Or



The Camino pilgrimage brought cheers some days, rain gear other days, and concluded joyfully in Santiago de Compostela.



Missioners led by Mike Bily again worked on Barnes Mountain, KY, through St. Timothy's Episcopal Outreach Center, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington.



The Planned Giving Committee hosted a parish reception for Founders Sunday with the help of the Hospitality Committee.



Rutter's Mass of the Children combined the talents of the Youth and Children's Choirs, the Festival Chorus and members of the Richmond Symphony.



Bobbie Smith visits with Honduran families during the mission to Our Little Roses Home for Girls in San Pedro Sula.



David Wade and Alan Stone work on a project during the Honduras mission.



a Summer Break



The kids (and adults) at Vacation Bible School went on a Wilderness Adventure with the Israelites through the desert, including their own VBS camel!



Two weeks of hosting CARITAS guests gave many a chance to serve, both at the dessert table and on the service line.



Zimmy and the Babe Zone rocked the house at the Homegrown concert.



John Winn led his group and the West Gallery and Parish Choirs through the Whitmire Jazz Mass for St. James's for the 11th year.



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

“Doers” Ministries Are For Everyone

EVERY MEMBER’S MINISTRY FORUM

Sunday, September 14

Everyone – every church member, every guest, and every friend is invited and encouraged to attend our upcoming Every Member’s Ministry forum. Hosted by our Vestry Service Commission, it will be the time to celebrate and uplift the “doer” ministry of St. James’s. It will provide an opportunity to meet with lay leaders and to hear about the work of our ministry teams and the multitude of opportunities to serve both within the church and in the community. It will be an occasion to name and claim your ministry, and to add your name to the roster of some 1000+ ministry roles that make up the fabric of the servant ministry of St. James’s.

It will be the place to be Sunday, September 14, Valentine Hall, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Think celebration and party – a fun and happy time to be with friends and partners in ministry! Refreshments and coffee will be served. Most importantly, it will call forth your response to God’s call to serve. Come, be with us! Name and claim your ministry!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE OF ST. JAMES’S AND ITS MINISTRY

Members of the outreach committee shoulder a significant responsibility and do amazing work on behalf of the congregation. Each year committee members make funding decisions regarding the allocation of outreach funds

“Indeed, there is no faith without service. We make our faith real when we put it to work in the world; when we become engaged in ministry and live as the hands and feet of Christ.”

(Randolph Marshall Hollerith)

(see page 11). In order to stay informed of community and agency work and updated regarding community need, this team of faithful leaders meets almost monthly and visits agencies with which the church has a working partnership and/or interest in the particular service that is provided. As a guiding principle of its work, the committee is committed to “ensuring that funding decisions support the role of St. James’s to serve our community and to more effectively support those organizations that share our mission of answering God’s call to love and serve others; standing as a beacon of Christ’s light in the world.” The committee’s focus in recent years and going forward is to embrace those agencies that serve low-income and homeless people; that work towards the prevention of homelessness and the stabilization of housing; that strengthen individual and family life through life skills enrichment programs and education; and support our “signature” ministries: ACTS, St. James’s Children’s Center, Peter Paul Development Center, and CARITAS. If you review the Parish Resource Guide and compare the list of ministry opportunities with the roster of agencies listed on the next page that are outreach funding recipients, you will notice that many are the same. The

important work of the outreach committee and its financial resources made available to the community are strengthened by a strong foundation of servant ministry! Our money, our talents, and our hearts work together to serve, to being engaged in our community, to embracing its needs, and to living as the hands and feet of Christ.

Thanks to our committee members for their year-long efforts and challenging work of making important funding decisions: Connell Mullins (Chair), David Wade, Larry Green, Harry Moore, Harry Warner, Karen Townsend, Katie Morris, and Bobbie Ukrop, (staff: Carmen Germino and Nancy Warman).

Mark Your Calendars Now!

CARITAS Intake Ministry to be
October 18-December 19

REMINDER

As we begin a new program year, please be sure that church staff and lay leaders have your updated contact information! Please send information to Gina Young (gyoung@doers.org) or Anita Lisk (alisk@doers.org).

Nancy Warman

2014 Outreach Funding Recipients

ACTS
 CARITAS
 CARITAS (Host Expenses)
 Circle Center Adult Services
 CHIP of Richmond (Family Lifeline)
 Crossover Ministries
 Daily Planet
 Drive to Work
 Fan Free Clinic
 Gateway Homes
 Good Choice
 Grace on the Hill
 Hilliard House
 Home Again
 Peter Paul Development Center
 REAP
 Richmond Peace Education Center
 Shepherd Center
 St. Andrew's School
 St. James's Children's Center
 Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)
 The Healing Place
 Virginia Supportive Housing
 William Byrd Community Center
 YWCA

Additions and corrections

These names were incorrect or missing in the listing of the St. James's Legacy Society in the Summer Chimes.

Mary Harrison
 Tom Porterfield
 Sandra Rose



New Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



We are pleased to welcome Mary Elizabeth ("Mary Beth") Abplanalp as our new Director of Youth

and Young Adult Ministry. Mary Beth joined the church staff on August 4. She comes to us from Christ Church Episcopal in Alexandria, where she has been Children and Youth Minister since 2011. Prior to her job at Christ Church, she taught third and first grade in Annandale and Alexandria. She has been Assistant Director of St. Elizabeth's Camp at Shrine Mont since 2007 and is a former Camping Director and Counselor at St. George's Camp at Shrine Mont. She currently serves on the Shrine Mont Board of Directors. Mary Beth earned her Masters degree in Elementary Education as well as her B.S. in Psychology at the University of Mary Washington. Mary Beth is married to Chris Abplanalp, a longtime volunteer paramedic who plans to attend nursing school at VCU Medical Center. When you see her on Sunday or around the church, be sure to let her know how glad we are she's arrived!

The Interview

continued from page 15

own theme and characteristics. This year, our Feast will take on a celebration of our stewardship commitment for the upcoming year. In years past, the Feast was aligned to our annual pledge campaign kick-off. The 2014 Feast will serve as a reminder of how many blessings we truly have as a parish family.

SW: As in all previous years, each Feast has something new to offer. This year, the campaign is being pushed forward so we hope to be able to celebrate all the fabulous pledges that have been made! Of course, Mark and Virginia are working hard to come up with fabulous musical entertainment. Eric Burfeind and Pim Jager are developing a delicious menu, and Louise Bowles' decor will be stunning. What's this year's theme? You'll have to come find out!

Chimes: How would you like parishioners to feel as they depart the Feast?

JH: Simply put, loved! As a parish family we have a lot to be thankful for. We have experienced challenges in the past and will face them as we move forward in our journey. We have laughed, cried and celebrated together. We are not alone. [In each chapter in the history of our church, we have embarked on a journey together with God's love and common vision. We celebrate today and look forward with anticipation of the many years to come serving God as the true body of Christ here at St. James's.

SW: I want each guest to feel like they've just left a huge, family dinner. I hope everyone will feel welcomed and so glad that they are part of our wonderful church family.

Time, Change, and Renewal

by Debbie Lickey

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

It has happened again, a year has passed. For me, a teacher my entire adult life, the New Year begins in September. On New Year's Eve you'll find me fast asleep much before midnight. I've been trying to keep up with young children, I need my sleep. Oh! But September! That's when the real countdown of time begins for me.

quotes of mine is, "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." – Maya Angelou

I have experienced one short year in the life of St. James's Children's Center and have viewed the wonder of this ministry through novel eyes. I recently had the realization that, given the length

many, children do not get to have in their lives. Knowing that children were in substandard preschool situations was the heartbreak and frustration I experienced for years, while at the same time I heard a whispering voice in my heart. Now here I am, grateful and honored to be one of the 'doers', making that difference.

Come and be a part of this daily, yet profound, experience. A whispering voice may be urging you to make a difference in the life of children, to volunteer at the Children's Center. We have so many needs in our school: someone to be the 'star' volunteer for the day: a floater who helps with a shoelace that may need to be tied or extra hands for a messy art project. We need you to share your passion with a small group of children. What do you love doing ... Sewing? Art? Books? Gardening? Dr. Mark is a wonderful example of someone who regularly shares his love of music with us and it means the world to our

"And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time."

— Libba Bray, *The Sweet Far Thing*

What does the passage of a year mean? It varies...so when you are two, then a year later, three, it means you can voice your ideas and opinions in a whole new manner; you can now run...fast! As we get older, of course, the years begin to blend into one another...how could the summer be over already??

This year has been a momentous one for me. This is the year in which the ever present vision in the back of my mind (and heart) came to fruition. The whisper to my spirit that everything I was experiencing – all lessons learned, as well as the frustration and heartbreak, was intentionally part of my path. Now I know where that journey was taking me: to St. James's Children's Center. It's been a year of change for the Children's Center and me. Change brings renewal, a blossoming of new talents, a stretching of one's comfort zone, a coming together of new relationships. A favorite

of time that the Children's Center has been a part of the church, it has most likely become a constant for most St. James's members. As a result I wonder: do the members of this congregation comprehend the true value of the gift that they provide for families? Imagine the peace of mind that a homeless father has as he looks for employment and a grandmother battling cancer and medical bills has knowing that their daughter and grandson are in a safe and nurturing environment. Consider the value to a young child of a beautiful space to go to every day where you are celebrated and treated with respect, provided nutrition, new ideas and new experiences, as well as the opportunity to learn about caring people who may look different than you. How incredible that this is an experience the children will take with them for the rest of their lives! This is an experience that many,



children. Give a bit of your time and commitment and you will be repaid in delight and wonder. Please email me at dlickey@doers.org and then be patient, as we work to organize your contribution into all it can be for the Children's Center and the children.



Parish Retreat Offers Reflection, Relaxation, Spiritual Renewal

Come spend a weekend in the beautiful fall setting provided by the historic Shrine Mont Retreat Center on October 17-19. Our program this year will be led by the Rev. Thom Blair. Participants will have the opportunity to unplug, relax, and enjoy the gorgeous mountain scenery and one another's company. There will be activities for all ages, 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. Weekend fees are:

- 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 at <http://bit.ly/retreat-10-17-19> or contact Anita Lisk (alisk@doers.org, 355-1779 ext. 313).

What's Your Story?

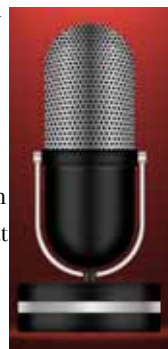
Have you been deeply touched by your faith or a favorite ministry? What are the epiphanies on your personal spiritual journey? Where have you been called to a deeper relationship with Christ?

St. James's is a community in constant transformation. As a way to acknowledge and honor the work of the Spirit that is occurring right in front of us, we began "I Witness Accounts", a podcast series where parishioners tell their story of transformation. Four stories are currently on the I Witness page on doers.org.

Parishioners are invited to contact Russell Lawson (russelllawson@doers.org or 804-355-1779 x339) to arrange a time to stop by the church and talk. The interviews can be conversations between family members, missionaries, min-

istry participants, or led by Russell. The important part is that people who feel comfortable sharing an experience about God's presence in their lives at a point that was transformational for them will have a quiet environment in which to recount their story.

Bring us your stories and we will listen. You will be asked to review your produced podcast before it is used. If anything is not to your liking, we will try again. Let us hear about your personal experience so that we all may be inspired to open our hearts to the work of the Spirit, too.



Change and Tradition

continued from page 1

parish's families and friends lost over the previous twelve months.

The Parish Choir will sing a Choral Eucharist at the 11:15 service on Sunday, November 16 and the next Sunday, November 23, features the Advent Fair and the start of this year's Giving Tree ministry primarily for families and children served by the Children's Center and Peter Paul Development Center.

Thanksgiving Day, November 27, will include the traditional 10:00 a.m. service with the Parish Choir and brass.

Baptisms will be offered on September 21, October 19 and November 2. All in all, it will be a busy fall at St. James's, rich with tradition and exciting changes!

Shutterbug Squad

Calling all lens pros

The Communications Office would like to invite photographers who are looking for a ministry to join the Shutterbug Squad. Your help is needed at church events and services, on trips and retreats, throughout the year. Contact Russell Lawson (804) 355-1779 or russelllawson@doers.org to get on the list for assignments. And bless you for doing it!

Stewardship



Chip Woodson,
Director of Stewardship and
Development

Lessons from Iona

“My dearly loved brothers, understand this: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, for man’s anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness. Therefore... humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save you. But be doers of the word and not hearers only.” –James 1:19-22

Words I repeatedly see and hear at St. James’s immediately caught my attention as I sat an ocean away from familiar surroundings. Attending a Morning Prayer service at the Abbey on the Isle of Iona, I felt a kinship – a special connection – to



the spirit of St. Columba, who came to this small island near the Isle of Mull in Scotland in 563. He arrived with his 12 companions, all intent on spreading Christianity to a pagan kingdom. At the heart of their message was the sense of urgency to serve God’s people, to be a “Doer” in a world where neither race, nor creed, nor name should matter. I felt the same spirit I’ve encountered at St. James’s when I sang with other voices in the Abbey:

*When I needed a neighbour were you there,
were you there?*

*When I needed a neighbour were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name
won’t matter, were you there?*

–Sidney Bertram Carter

The power of those words rekindled the desire that I have witnessed in this parish to step up and strive to do more to serve God’s people. When I consider the sacrifices made throughout the centuries to be “Doers of the Word,” I am humbled by the spirit of these

Christians with the clarity and determination evident in their choices. The message remains as clear today and anchors each of us as we make our choices, sometimes hard choices, about our stewardship.

In my position as Director of Stewardship and Development, I am regularly confronted with the fiscal realities of budgets, balancing expected contributions with the needs of our program ministries. If I am honest, I must admit to sometimes feeling a bit uneasy when asking our faithful parishioners, who give so much in time and financial resources, to give more. So it is a great gift to me to be reminded anew that not only are we called to give, we are ever so blessed to be able to partner with our faithful forebears who gave so courageously and generously to do God’s work. Like so many of God’s blessings, they come disguised as a challenge, but reveal themselves as a gift. We are about to start our Annual Giving Campaign. This year we will be asking

parishioners to increase their pledges by 15% from the previous year. In the last four years, we have only once asked for an increase. During that time, among the families who consistently pledge, about 36% give the same amount year after year. I recognize that for many of us, the challenge to stretch our resources may appear great – but that is what Christians have freely done for centuries – and St. James’s should do no less. With the full effort of those who are giving to the limit of their resources and those who are able to dig deeper to increase or to start giving, we will “DO” so much more in 2015.

Brent Winn and Geoff Sisk are the co-chairs for the 2014 Annual Giving Campaign and will be sending out information to you shortly. It is my hope that you too will feel called to give resourcefully and faithfully to serve God’s people. Please do your part as a “Doer of St. James’s” in support of the campaign this year. Thank you!

God’s blessings,

Chip

The Interview

The Chimes caught up with Feast of St. James's co-chairs James Henry and Shelton Way to learn more about the foundation of their ministry and plans for this year's event.

Chimes: What moved you to become involved in the Feast of St. James's?

JH: The Feast of St. James's is a special evening for our parish. This year, our 2014 feast celebrates our collective financial stewardship, which is vital to our parish's health, but also gives us an opportunity to offer thanksgiving for the many opportunities that allow us to serve God, our parish, and community. I am excited to co-chair this event with Shelton, but also excited about working with many staff and the mass of volunteers that is needed to make this evening a success.

SW: I think that one of the greatest qualities of our church community is how well we welcome and quickly get newcomers involved. I met Shaila Menees in Pilgrims' Path, and we became fast friends. We worked together on WomanKind, and I couldn't say no when she asked me to be her co-chair for last year's Feast. I didn't know much about stewardship before becoming involved with the Feast, but once I got into the planning of the event, I learned so much about the important role of annual giving in the facilitation of all of the amazing people and ministries at St. James's, and now I enjoy helping to support the Stewardship mission as much as possible. AND, to come full circle, I'm so glad to welcome James, another fellow Pilgrims' Path classmate, to the Feast planning committee as this year's co-chair!

Chimes: How have your own experiences at previous Feasts influenced your approach as a volunteer leader?

JH: Five years ago, I recall attending my first Feast at St. James's. In one



James Henry



Shelton Way

word, I will sum up my opinion of the entire evening..."wow". The talented musicians, the culinary cuisine and the warmth and that I felt that evening was truly unique to the St. James's family. As I left that evening, I could not wait to be part of this journey and within a short period of time, I too became a "doer" of the St. James's family. Each one of us has many talents that we can offer God and our parish. My goal as your co-chair this year is to work "together" in partnership with my fellow parishioners and provide an evening of joy, excitement and anticipation of an exciting year ahead. I am reminded of one of my favorite stories from Lou Holtz, previous football coach of Notre Dame, which explains the nature of a team in a story about a man whose car veered into a ditch. He went to a nearby house for help, but the farmer had only an old blind mule, named Dusty. The farmer agreed to hitch the mule to the car. He snapped his whip and yelled, "Pull, Sammy, pull.". Dusty didn't move. He then called out "Pull Charlie, pull." Nothing happened. Again he yelled, "Pull, Phillip, pull." Still nothing. Finally the farmer yelled, "Pull Dusty, pull." Dusty jerked forward and freed the car from the ditch. After thanking and paying him, the driver asked the farmer why he called the mule by three wrong names. "Dusty's blind," the farmer replied. "If Dusty thought he had to do all the work by himself, he wouldn't even try." Every parish is a team. "Where two or three are gathered together in my

name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20.

SW: I had actually only attended one Feast before I became involved with the committee. My husband, Lawton and I attended the Feast shortly after we joined St. James's, and I can remember being a bit anxious as we were newcomers. I was so pleasantly surprised at how welcome we were made to feel, and we met so many people at the event that have become familiar faces on Sundays. In planning, I hope to create that same welcoming feeling for each guest whether they're a new member or someone who has attended every Feast.

Chimes: What do you see as the main focus or theme of this long-standing event?

JH: Our parish prides itself with a rich heritage and a commitment to change that embraces the future. As our parish continues to grow and move forward with meeting the spiritual needs of our parish and community, the Feast provides an opportunity for us to come together as one body and celebrate the warmth of our fellow parishioners for the glory of God and celebrate the many thanksgivings and blessing we have at St. James's.

SW: To me, the Feast is a fantastic celebration of all of the gifts and talents of our church community. It is an opportunity for everyone to come together to appreciate our wonderful parish. I love that the Feast itself is somewhat of a mini showcase of the amazing talent in our midst. Everyone might not be aware, but the preparation of all of the food and decor for the event is done by St. Jamesers. No caterers or party planners for this 500 person event!

Chimes: What can parishioners expect from the Feast this year? Anything new?

JH: Each Feast is unique with its

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