



# Winter Chimes



Dec. 2014 - Feb 2015

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.4, No.2

## St. James's Vision for Young Adults Ministry

### What's inside...



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**A**t a recent dinner meeting, twenty-four volunteer leaders of the Young Adults ministry, including Vestry liaisons Knox Hubbard and Allan Rees, met with Mary Beth Abplanalp and Carmen Germino to dream big about engaging young adults at St. James's.

"Adults from their early-twenties to their early-forties represent a sizable and growing part of our parish and we think they are seeking spiritual engagement and friendships with other faithful people," said Mary Beth.

With the aim of defining a clear direction for the ministry, participants were offered a chance to list verbs and action words that they felt they wanted the ministry to embody and embrace. These choices were then narrowed down to three final descriptors.

The group determined that that the ministry would be organized around the words "Grow, Serve, and Play." Grow will encompass both individual spiritual growth and learning as well as extending intentional welcome and hospitality to all young adults.



*Young adult volunteer leaders, Vestry liaisons and staff met in late October for dinner and discernment about the mission and ministry pertinent to parishioners from the mid-twenties to the mid-forties.*

The vision exercise also delved into the diversity of potential participants and the need to recognize both the availability and interests of parishioners with children and those without children. The various leadership roles were discussed and each volunteer at the dinner made a commitment to be an active leader for our three ministry areas (grow, serve, and play) or with behind the responsibilities.

"Building and offering a more robust ministry that enables our young adults to engage more deeply and meaningfully in the church and their own spirituality depends on the faithful commitment of many lay leaders," remarked Mark Beth.

Find us online all the time:





## From the Rector's Desk

### Changes Illuminate God's Plan

*The Rev. Randolph Marshall  
Hollerith, Rector*

**A**s we prepare for the New Year there are several changes taking place at St. James's. At the end of August we said goodbye to Ann Dieterle. While we miss Ann, she just recently had her first Sunday as the new rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Ann is doing great work at St. Paul's and we can be proud of all that she is accomplishing. Since Ann's departure, Mark Cooper and Caroline Parkinson have increased their hours and teamed up in an interim capacity to fill in the gaps. We have been blessed by Mark and Caroline's good work and I cannot thank them both enough for their willingness to help out. Early in 2015 we will begin a formal search process to find a new Associate Rector to fill Ann's position. We will be interviewing experienced priests as well as seminarians preparing to graduate from seminary in May. Please keep this search process in your prayers that God will bring the right person to serve at St. James's at this particular point in our parish history.

Also in early 2015 we will welcome Sally Gunn to St. James's. Sally is in the middle of a two-year process, sponsored by the Diocese of Virginia, to be ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. Sally will intern at St. James's for all of 2015. She will take part in a variety of different ministries and will serve on Sunday mornings. I hope you will join with me in welcoming Sally to our parish family. You can find out more about Sally and her ministry in "The Interview" on the last page of the Chimes.

Finally, at the end of January we will say goodbye to Chip Woodson as our Director of Stewardship and Development. Chip has decided it is time for him to retire. While I am sad to lose Chip as a valuable member of the staff, I am excited about this new chapter in his life. Chip has been a part of our staff for more than 5 years and in that time he has done much to help our church grow. Because of his work our pledges have grown every year and we successfully raised one million dollars for our Endowment. Chip's gentle, kind spirit and his expertise in the areas of stewardship and development have been a great blessing. Chip and Sandy are looking forward to traveling and spending time with family. While Chip will no longer be on staff, we are fortunate that he and Sandy will remain members of the Church. Between now and the end of January please take a moment to thank Chip for his ministry.

Change is the one constant in this life. And while we often have to say goodbye to wonderful people who touch our lives, I trust that God is always sending new "hellos" our way, new people to enrich our community and open new vistas for ministry.

Faithfully,

### Christmas Service Schedule

#### Advent Lessons and Carols

December 7 5:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Pageant

December 21 5:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist 4:00 p.m.

Festival Eucharist 6:00 p.m.

Choral prelude 10:30 p.m.

Festival Eucharist 11:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

#### Christmas 1, December 28

Holy Eucharist, Rite I 7:45 a.m.

Lessons and Carols 10:00 a.m.

#### Christmas 2, January 4

Holy Eucharist, Rite I 7:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00 a.m.

### Office Schedule

Closed noon, December 24 -  
December 26

Open Monday and Tuesday,  
December 29 and 30

Closed noon, December 31 -  
January 2, reopen January 5





# MUSIC

## Fall Music Still Ringing In Our Ears

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



The West Gallery Choir and Guitar Ensemble with guest musicians Charles Arthur, Alan Parker and Molly Sharp, led a rousing Bluegrass Mass on September 28.

Members of both Parish and West Gallery Choirs, plus guest musicians Matt Lisk, Scott Milstead and Alan Parker, recreated the concert experience of British rock band Queen for parishioners attending the Feast.

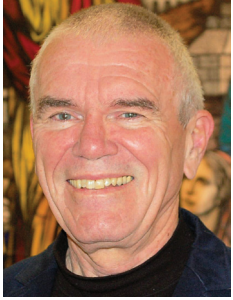


Our Children's Choir sang beautifully for the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis Sunday, October 5.



Peace,  
Mark and Virginia





*The Rev. Mark Cooper,  
Interim Associate Rector*

## Refocusing and Renewing

**W**hat an exciting opportunity to pick up from Ann Dieterle in adult education and to continue the excellence of her work. Randy and our pastoral staff have been talking for some time about how we take our work to a deeper level. Hopefully in the months ahead you will see our focus on offering courses that will assist all of us in moving more deeply into the meaning of our faith and equipping us to live out our faith more fully.

As we look forward to January we will continue with a variety of programs that will hopefully be of interest to those who want to continue to grow in their faith journey. In January we'll have a presentation on "Keeping our hearts healthy" followed by a discussion of key ideas emerging from a study of "The Scarlet Letter" lead by one of our members, David Speidell. Caroline Parkinson will lead us in reflection on prayer and I will be leading two Wednesday nights in a discussion of the Trinity Institute's Conference on "Creating the Common Good." We will have a special series during Lent focusing on Meditation and Mindfulness.

St. James's has for some time welcomed a noted yoga instructor, Mary Jo Lowery, who teaches a regular class on Tuesday's at noon and the class is open to the community. We will be adding two new opportunities to experience your emotions and your practice of meditation. In November one of our

parishioners, Catherine Ferguson, has been leading a group that meets twice monthly and is open to anyone experiencing grief or loss. Catherine had a counseling practice in NYC and, after she and her family moved to Richmond, she has taken the time to become licensed in Virginia. She has a private practice and will offer this group on a regular basis. Gena Adams-Riley, who led a Wednesday night presentation on meditation and will be moving her office to One Monument Ave to see individuals there, will be offering a monthly group session on meditation for adults and another for young children starting in early January here at St. James's. More information to follow.

Sunday mornings will continue to include the Adult Bible Study lead by Dr. Thom Blair, Jr. In addition, the pastoral staff will begin to offer short mini-courses between services that will last for two or three Sunday's at a time. We will continue to have a Forum Series, but it will be limited to once a month and no other classes will be offered during those presentations. That schedule will be published soon.

So a lot is going on, with many opportunities to continue to grow in your understanding of the church and your own faith journey. If there is something you would like to have us pursue, please talk to one of the clergy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

### **Creating the Common Good Trinity Church, NYC**

#### **"A Practical Conference for Economic Equality"**

This conference, held at Trinity Church in NYC, January 22-24, 2015, is open to any interested person. Speakers include The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Cornel West, author of [The Rich and the Rest of Us](#), Robert Reich, and others. There are special rates for housing in NYC. I will be going and would be happy to have company for the journey and conference. You can talk to me if you want more information.

Upon our return, I will bring back a review of the presentations from this conference. There will be a discussion of the book [Capital in the twenty-first Century](#) by Thomas Piketty, and Jeremy Rifkin's [The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, The Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism](#). These sessions will be our Christian Study on Wednesday, February 7 and 14 at 7:00 p.m.





The Rev. Carmen Germino,  
Associate Rector

## May Christ Bless this House and All Who Dwell in It

**G**reetings! I trust that my colleagues will offer edifying reflections on the season of Advent in this publication, so I am going to use my allotted space to write about another church season that falls within the timeframe of this Winter edition of the Chimes: Epiphany. Epiphany is the season right after the twelve days of Christmas (December 25 – January 5). We begin with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, and go all the way to Ash Wednesday, arriving at Lent.

Epiphany is when we begin to live into the birth of Jesus, and everything it means for the world, the church, and for us. The story of the wise men is central to this season. They were the first in the world beyond Judaism to look for Christ and find him. They are seekers, on a journey to encounter the living God who has become incarnate in a small child born to poor parents. They have only a luminous ball of hydrogen and helium to guide them to his dwelling. But somehow, it works. They follow the light and find God.

One old Epiphany tradition I love is the church's custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. Our homes are our havens, and it is appropriate to bless them from time to time and welcome God into them. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above your home's entryway:

**20 + C + M + B + 15**

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2015 is the year. If you cannot access the top of the entryway, find a brick you can reach or even the steps or sidewalk out front. After using the chalk, pray with these words:

*Visit, O God, this home with the gladness  
of your presence.*

*Bless all who live or visit here with the gift  
of your love,  
and grant that we may manifest your love to  
all whose lives we touch.*

*May we grow in grace and in the  
knowledge and love of you.*

*As you guided the magi to Christ with the  
light of a star,*

*guide, comfort, and strengthen us, and  
preserve us in peace, now and forever.  
Amen.*

Once the magi find Jesus, life will never be the same for them. They travel to him via one path, but scripture tells us they return home by a different route. The central question of Epiphany is this: Now that God has become human in the person of Jesus, what difference will it make in my life? Incidentally, Epiphany begins right around the time we begin recruiting for volunteers to help with CARITAS shelter week at St. James's. So as you ask Christ to bless your home, ask him to bless also

those who have no home, and consider how you might want to offer your time and energy to serve families in our community who are homeless.

Faithfully,

*Carmen*

### SAVE THE DATE

### MARDI GRAS FOR MISSIONS

**February 17!**

Celebrate Mardi Gras with us and support the missions partnerships of our church.

- fabulous food
- bountiful beverages
- amazing auction items

Tuesday, February 17, 2015  
6:00 p.m.

Michaux House  
St. James's Episcopal Church

Volunteers, auction items, and partygoers are needed. To get involved, contact co-chairs Jennifer Sisk ([jlsiskcomm@aol.com](mailto:jlsiskcomm@aol.com)) & Sara Cann ([scanndo@gmail.com](mailto:scanndo@gmail.com)).

# Ministry



Mary Beth Abplanalp,  
Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry

## Youth Ministry is for All of Us!

# ... for Youth and Young Adults

I must confess that when I first started working at an Episcopal Church in 2011, I was incredibly uncomfortable with my new job title – Youth Minister. What? I'm not a minister. I haven't been to seminary and I don't have a Christian Ed degree. I'm just a former teacher who grew up as an acolyte, sang in the choir, and enjoyed going to an Episcopal summer camp. Despite my discomfort, the church had already printed my business cards, so the title stuck, and rightfully so.

It seems that God is actually quite fond of calling unlikely suspects to carry out his missions in the world. I learned in the book *The Godbearing Life* by Dean & Foster, that the Eastern Orthodox tradition calls Mary theotokos, or "Godbearer," because she (quite literally) brought God into the world. I can't imagine Mary, a teenage girl engaged to be married, was at first very comfortable with her new title and role either! Fortunately, Mary had the Angel Gabriel to comfort her – "Be not afraid for you

have found favor with God."

Young people – inexperienced, insecure, improbable choices by all accounts – figure prominently among God's "chosen." Timothy, a young Godbearer we meet in scripture, was sent to help the church in Corinth. His ministry encountered problems (just like any ministry does at some point). His mentor Paul helped him and offered these encouraging words regarding Timothy's effectiveness as a young person in ministry:

Don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed – keep that dusted off and in use." (1 Timothy 4:12-14).

God calls each of us, including young people, to be "Godbearers" through whom God may enter this world again and again. All teenagers, including

Mary and Timothy, need faithful mentors, like the Angel Gabriel and Paul, to represent the gospel, shore up their faith, and to guide them in mission.

I am now humbled by my job title and enriched by the opportunity to walk alongside youth on their faith journeys. I encourage – even challenge – you, to join me in my imperfect attempt to be a Godbearer, mentor, and friend to the youth of St. James's. Wondering how to begin? Start by learning the name of the young person sitting in your pew, and greet them by name every time you see them.

To learn more about the Youth Ministry at St. James's, please give me a call or visit <http://www.doers.org/fairth-formation/youth/>.

Love ya! Mean it!

*Mary Beth*

### Friendships, Fun and Faith in Equal Measure for Fall Youth Activities



A beautiful clear day was perfect for our senior high outing on the U of R Ropes Course.



The Lock In on October 25 put 31 middle schoolers and six adults together for an evening of Amazing Races, family movies, fun and fellowship.







Becky Page  
Director of Children's Ministries

# ... for Children

## Ministry of Presence

### Sunday School at St. James's

On Sunday mornings during the Christian Education hour the classrooms of Gibson Hall and the Michaux House are filled with active youngsters. Some days the children are loudly jumping and playing games to help them learn the story of Exodus. Other days they are sitting so still watching the candles being "changed" in a Godly Play story on Baptism that you could hear a pin drop. Some Sundays the lessons go well and it appears that the children understood what they were supposed to learn. Other Sundays, I'm not sure that the lesson made any sense to them. I recently heard this story from the mother of a kindergarten child which struck a chord. She told me her daughter offered kindness and comfort to another child as they walked into their new school. When asked about this, the little girl said that she acted that way not because her mother asked her to, but, in her five-year-old words, "Because it was what Jesus would want me to do." How beautiful and how amazing! That ministry of presence, walking beside someone when they are afraid, is just what Jesus would want us to do. Even more than scripture verses or historical facts about Jesus, I hope that your child feels the ministry of presence at St. James's; that we are here for one another in our times of need and our times of joy.

### Christmas Pageant

On Sunday evening, December 21 at 5:00 p.m., you are invited to experience a special service at St. James's. The Christmas Pageant will take place in the sanctuary with scriptural lessons and joyous carols bringing the story of the birth of Jesus Christ to life for us all. The youth of St. James's and Sunday school students from the three year-old class through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will share the story through acting, singing and scripture readings while the Children's Choir and the Youth choir will share their gifts of singing. Many thanks to our Pageant Director Jaime Gordon, our wonderful Sunday school teachers and shepherds, our many energetic volunteers and our children for creating this joyful pageant. Look for more information regarding volunteering and sign-ups in your Sunday school classrooms.

### Advent Coin Collection

Each Advent season Sunday school families are invited to include an Advent coin collection as part of their preparations for Christmas. The coins collected this year will go to support Episcopal Relief and Development Fund Gifts for Life. Last year, our children donated coins totaling \$320. They voted to give a share of a cow, two pigs, bees and honey. What a blessing it is for our children to be able to give their coins to make a difference the lives of others.



The Advent Coin collection will take place at the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 21. The children will have a chance to vote during Sunday school on January 11 as to how they would like to direct the funds. More information on this program can be found at <http://bit.ly/advent-gift> or contact me at [bpage@doers.org](mailto:bpage@doers.org)

Blessings,

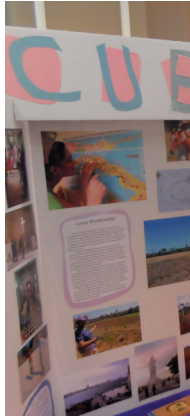
*Becky*



# How We Had A



*At the Blessing of the Animals, many four-legged and other companions attended to receive the clergy's blessing in honor of St. Francis. This may have been our first Sunday for a chicken blessing (see below).*



*Sunday forums include a fair for volunteer recruitment and Food Festival for our planning teams for our plan*



*Tables filled with festive people, fellowship and fun came together at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Feast of St. James's held October 22 at the Science Museum of Virginia (for more pictures, see page 3's Music Department review).*





# A Fabulous Fall



cluded the annual Every Member Ministry recruitment and the first Missions Music to interest parishioners in joining the ned service destinations.



The Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont had numerous highlights including (clockwise from top left) a talent show, fellowship, pumpkin carving, worship with live music, games and a cast of over a hundred in attendance.



The Parish Picnic (left and above) returned to Rock Bottom for a good time with friends to open the fall season at church.



For over a decade, the Music ministry has been bringing song and solace to residents of The Virginia Home. (Below, choir members entertain in September).



Dr. Mark Cooper and parishioners continue to meet the second Wednesday of the month as SelfStarters in Ellwood Thompson's community room.





Nancy Warman,  
Director of Servant Ministry

## Winter Season Ministry

**L**et your light shine! Be present with others. Hear their needs, real or imagined. Laugh with them and cry with them when needed. Give gifts that will warm hearts and bring joy and child-like excitement! Provide nutritious food and warm clothing. Hug many people and with your embrace give warmth and assurance. Pray for and with others. Give hope to those who are without it. Love abundantly. Serve generously so that Christ's presence and love is known by many throughout this winter season.

### Christmas Giving Tree Ministry

A long tradition at St. James's, the Giving Tree ministry provides church members an opportunity to provide gifts to children and senior citizens served by Peter Paul Development Center. In addition it offers the opportunity for people to give financial gifts to our in-house emergency financial fund which helps us provide emergency assistance and counseling to those who are in financial crisis. Christmas trees with "wish lists" ornaments will be available in the Michaux House at the Advent Fair and in the Narthex on Sunday, November 23; in the hallway of Michaux House and in the Narthex on Sundays, November 30 and December 7. As you select an ornament, please be sure to sign the gift list so that our ministry team members can be assured that each child or adult has been sponsored. Please return gifts to Michaux House by Sunday, December

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***Please note one change in Giving Tree tradition. Bring children's gifts UNWRAPPED. Parents will be given the opportunity to wrap their children's gifts so that they feel more engaged in their children's Christmas celebrations.***

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14. For questions or concerns, please contact lay leaders Ginny Hofheimer (vrhvrh@gmail.com/304-4693) or Lauren Langley (laurendlangley@gmail.com/337-1759).

### CARITAS Intake Ministry

Many thanks to those who have provided presence and hospitality to our CARITAS guests waiting for transportation each night (4:30-6:00 p.m.) to an overnight congregation. This Intake ministry continues until December 19. Two volunteers are needed each night to welcome our guests, provide hospitality and snacks, and secure our building when they depart. This is a great opportunity for family ministry! If you can serve, please contact lay leader Margaret Corwin (corwincompany@verizon.net/512-1664).

### CARITAS Shelter Week Ministry

February 21-28 are dates to be remembered for those who want to be part of the Michaux House joyful buzz of CARITAS shelter week!

Moving from intake to shelter ministry, this is the week that St. James's "doers" provide shelter each night to some 35 families, parents and children. Many volunteers are needed to provide

breakfast and dinner meals, to prepare lunch and snack bags, to help with laundry, to supervise showers, entertain with games and crafts, lead bingo, and to be present with listening ears and open hearts. It is a wonderful week, filled with laughter and tears, learning and growing, warmth and hope, and rich with God's spirit. Please join us! Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex or you may contact co-leaders Meg Stott (mcstott65@yahoo.com/347-2029) or Amanda Roberts (amanda@thevacationchic.com/370-8924).

*Nancy Warman*



## Signs of Advent 2014

**W**e all leave signs of our presence wherever we go. We can tell who cooked dinner by the spices they used or what the kitchen looked like. We can tell who has been using the TV by what channel they leave the TV set to. In Advent we are told to look at the signs of God at work in the world – in peace, joy, hope and love. As we look for Jesus during this season of Advent, those are the same signs for which we look.

Recently a friend said to me that every day he reflected on the question of “what have I done today that tells the people I love the most, that I love them?” What indeed have I done today that tells the ones I love that I love them?”

As we wait and watch, preparing during this holy season of Advent, we might spend some thoughtful and careful time considering the signs we leave behind, the impressions we give, the memories we create. During this holy season of waiting and watching, we might consider what impressions and memories of ourselves God might want us to leave behind.

Advent calls us to treat each opportunity with reverence since it is the experience at hand that offers us a glimpse of God who has come in human flesh that we might know his extraordinary love – that is the sign he has given to us all. We recognize Jesus when we can see him at work in our world today through his people who bring hope to a hurting world.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are invited to participate in the services and classes and programs at St. James's this Advent season – do come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come because it is Jesus who invites you. His table is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.



*Caroline*

## CARITAS Furniture Bank Needs Donations

**D**onations of furniture or housewares can be dropped off at the Furniture Bank, located at 1125 E Commerce Road Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.. Or, if necessary, items can be picked up for a nominal fee, usually between \$30-\$40 to cover operational costs. Also available are several storage units located throughout the Greater Richmond area where items can be dropped off. There is a list of these units on the website ([caritasva.org](http://caritasva.org)) with more information as to how to donate this way. For questions, you may contact Volunteer Coordinator, Joy Bailey ([jbailey@caritasva.org](mailto:jbailey@caritasva.org) 804-358-0964 ext. 408.)

### Most Needed Items:

#### *Furniture*

- Sofas (free of tears/stains)
- Mattresses/Box Springs (all sizes, free of tears/stains)
- Dining tables
- Dressers

#### *Housewares*

- Flatware
- Dinnerware (especially dinner plates)
- Pillows
- Lamps
- Towels (especially washcloths)
- Pots/Pans

The CARITAS Furniture bank is a greatly needed and used community resource for those who are moving from the shelter system to their own homes, often one's first home. It is a valuable resource to the church in that we can make referrals on behalf of clients in need. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated.



## Change the First Five Years and You Change Everything



*Debbie Lickey  
Executive Director*

**A**t this time of year, when thoughts turn to memories of childhood and holidays past, a new video has been released: “Change the First Five Years and You Change Everything.” The video confirms our year-round vision for each of the children of St. James’s Children’s Center. This new release clarifies the vital importance of changing outcomes for children by changing their first five years.

“Change the First Five Years and You Change Everything.” For many years brain researchers, social scientists and economists have all studied the effects of quality early childhood education and have all come to this same amazing conclusion.

For me as the Director and for the teachers of St. James’s Children’s Center, “Changing the First Five Years” takes on multiple meanings. First and foremost, the video reminds us of how crucial our work is for the future of our students. “Change the First Five Years” also demonstrates the importance of



*Your support of the Center gives young children the opportunity to experience the natural world with a caring adult.*

taking the time to be very thoughtful and reflective about what those first years should look like.

Our staff has begun a conversation about what the children in our care need the most. We are reflecting on our own experiences in early childhood and the experiences we created for our own children. We are aware that with children in full time care, this is their childhood and the environment and experiences provided will form who they become.

What is clear is that children actually need to learn how to regulate them-

selves. They need to develop a sense of self and learn how to positively interact with others. These are skills that are honed by caring adults in their environment.

At St. James’s Children’s Center we are very conscious of how important each aspect of our program is for children to develop and become joyful learners. Good nutrition, strong relationships, physical activity, exposure to varied cultural influences, expanding

language and a variety of learning materials and resources are all vital. Each day, our students rely on the staff of the Children’s Center and the support of St. James’s parishioners to receive these gifts of a quality beginning in life.

At this time of year when you reflect on all that you and your own children are blessed with, I hope that you will take four minutes to watch this video at: <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/news/publications.php>.

This video drives home how important your investment in our young children is and what it can mean to change our little piece of the world, one child at a time. During this season of exchanging gifts, we believe the gifts you make to our children will be returned to you over and over again. By becoming part of our important mission, you truly have the opportunity to change lives.



*Children use the “Solution Box” to learn the skills they need to negotiate with peers and teachers. Gifts to the Center help defray the costs of these vital learning tools.*



## Supper Clubs Return!

In January, sign-ups will begin for another season of supper clubs. We will gather in small groups to get to know each other better and share the fellowship of a simple meal. We are a large and busy church, and one of the joys and challenges of being a large and busy church is that there is always someone new to meet. The hope for our Supper Clubs is that they will foster opportunities to make friends with other wonderful people outside of our usual social circles.

*What is a supper club?* Supper club is a potluck dinner at a host's home, where a group of people meet in an informal and relaxed setting. It's great for newcomers and long-timers.

*What's the agenda and who can participate?* The only agenda is to get to know one another better and share food and fellowship. There is no program – just dinner, hospitality, and conversation. All adults who attend St. James's (members and visitors) are invited to participate!

*How do I sign up?* In January, check the e-Chimes for more details and a link to the online sign-up form. Please contact Carmen Germino at [cgermino@doers.org](mailto:cgermino@doers.org) with any questions.

*If I participated in a supper club last summer, do I need to sign up again?* Yes.

All the rest of the important information and instructions for supper clubs can be found on [doers.org](http://doers.org). Don't miss out on this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our parish life and make some new friends! See what some parishioners had to say about participating in supper clubs:

"I loved getting to know people I only knew by sight. I feel that I have made six new friends!" – Alice Campbell

"Susan and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet some fellow St. Jamesers around a table filled with food and wine. I think that was something along the lines of the way Jesus did things. I'm all for it. I can tell you that when we come to church now, we see our supper club partners and we're able to greet one another more fulsomely, and reinforce the great sense of fellowship that should be part of a healthy church." – Tom Gayner

"We did enjoy the summer group in every respect. We have decided to continue on our own!" – Dave Johnson & Mimi Herington

"For me, the supper club was a real success. I got to know better some really great people and we had a wonderful time together." – Bill Nash

### Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis  
Stewards of the Earth Committee

## Seeking God, Reducing Carbon

Big, gluttonous party spreads. Towers of boxes, packaging, and wrapping detritus. Traffic congestion. Travelers at a snowy airport pleading, "But, I must get home for Christmas." These holiday experiences are hard on us and hard on the Earth. The amount of natural resources used – food, paper, plastic, fuel – are staggering. Does this make us happier? Or our holy days holier?

Ask yourself: "In the last few weeks, what have I enjoyed most? When did I feel God's love?" Think back to that experience. Did it involve others? Animals? Were you outside? Were you exercising or enjoying a meal? Reading or working? What made you happiest? Consider how your activity impacted the environment. Did it require electricity or consuming resources? Was it costly?

Meeting a friend to walk and talk costs nothing and produces zero pollution. The same can be said for taking the time to laugh with a co-worker or to help a child. We all want to increase the amount of time we spend doing activities that bring us closer to God. Chances are, these activities are easy on the earth. A smaller carbon footprint might correlate with more happiness and it might, in fact, be a key to the Kingdom. Opting for simplicity now, and every season of the year, might bring about the spiritual connections we truly desire. Graciously decline overdoing it. When you say "no" to the overconsumption of our society, you can say "yes" to our God who created us and all of nature. Honor His creation in all that you do.

# Stewardship



*Chip Woodson,  
Director of Stewardship and  
Development*

## A Memorable Journey

**W**hen I began my work here at St. James's five years ago, I wrote a series of articles for the Chimes newsletter describing how our attitude towards stewardship grows and evolves. I equated it to being on a journey, where we observe and learn as we progress down a path, each step bringing a new vision. These five years have been an incredible journey for me, and it is now time for me to move to the next step in my personal journey. It is time for me to retire. It is a decision that has been much more difficult than I expected, as I have truly loved the work I have done here and being a part of this amazing church.

As I look back over time at the many experiences, relationships, and challenges that have helped shape who I am, there is one thing that becomes obvious – God has been, and continues to be, at the center of my life, and never have I felt His presence more than during this time I have shared with you at St. James's. God is the guiding force that has directed my path and given me the opportunity to be a part of this faithful community. I know it is His grace that led me here, and I am ever so grateful for the relationships that have been formed, nurtured, and grown. For that I thank you.

In 2009, prior to coming to St. James's, Sandy and I went to Chartres Cathedral in France, to walk the



labyrinth that Christians over the centuries have walked in their quest to travel the pilgrim's path. The labyrinth provides a clear, although circuitous, path filled with unexpected turns as one progresses to its center. At the center the pilgrim pauses for reflection and prayer. However, the pilgrim must leave this place and continue the journey knowing that twists and turns lie ahead. So it is for me.

As I reflect on the last five years, I see the best of stewardship in this parish. You, the parishioners of St. James's, have displayed in your words and actions such a generosity, not only of your resources, but of your spirit – a spirit of joy, hope, and commitment. I have seen many positive changes during this time – increases in annual giving, with this year appearing to show the greatest rise; the diversity and exuberance of the Feasts; the growth of the Endowment Fund by more than \$1 million – to name just a few.

Perhaps more importantly, I have so appreciated the strong support given

me by this parish – the guidance and leadership from Randy, the good-natured, hard-working staff that has nurtured, loved, and laughed with me, the many volunteers that have given so freely of their time, the committee members that have shared their ideas, the Vestries that encouraged my work, and the comrades on mission trips, pilgrimages and retreats – what a phenomenal church this is!

As I look forward on my future path, I am filled with much excitement for spending more time with my four grandchildren, working on a number of projects that I have been putting off for years, traveling, spending more time on my boat, and just taking some down time for relaxation and reflection.

I will always treasure the love and joy I have experienced here and especially the relationships that have been formed. The good news is that, when I retire in mid-January, Sandy and I will stay right here as parishioners and continue our faith journey through our worship and being involved in the ministries St. James's has to offer.

It has been an honor and privilege to be on the staff at St. James's.

God's blessings,

*Chip*

# The Interview

**T**he Chimes visited with Sally Gunn, a Diocesan candidate for the Diaconate and our Deacon intern for the next year. Sally is in process in the Diocese of Virginia to become a permanent Deacon.

**C:** Where do you come from and how long will you be with us?

**SG:** My home parish and the one who has “raised me up and who is sending me out” is All Saints Episcopal Church. I have been a member there for 55 years. I will be interning with St. James’s for one year. I will start in January 2015 and will finish in January 2016. At that point, ordination will be scheduled.

**C:** What’s the role of an ordained deacon in the church, as you see it?

**SG:** The role of an ordained deacon in the church as a whole is to be a servant for those in need and to assist the bishop(s) and the priest in proclaiming the Gospel and in assisting with the Sacraments.

**C:** What background do you bring to the diaconate?

**SG:** The background that I bring to the diaconate is the devotion of a servant’s heart and the love of the Episcopal Liturgy.



Sally Gunn,  
2015 Deacon Intern

**C:** Is there a ministry for which you have a special passion or calling? If so, how did that come to you?

**SG:** The ministry that has claimed a true passion in my heart is that of ministering to women in a state prison. I have been a leading facilitator for a bible study and life application group at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland County for 16 years. This ministry grew out of another ministry I was involved in at the time. I am one of the founding lay members of St. Francis Episcopal Church, also located in Goochland. Five women from St. Francis and one from St. Paul’s, Richmond, led a group of 14 women

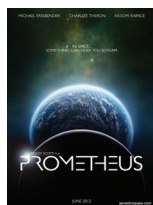
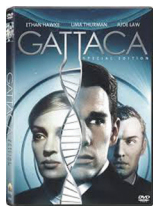
pre-selected by the chaplain to lead a 26-week course called “Disciples of Christ in Community.” It was amazing for each of us. We each felt the power of God change us.

**C:** What do you anticipate being the particular ways you will participate in the life of St. James’s over the next year?

**SG:** Liturgically, I will be mentored extensively by Reverend Randy Hollerith and will participate in services as asked. I will also teach two Sunday School classes, one Sunday each: one to adults and one to children about the diaconate program. I will also be spending three hours during the week at St. James’s in various ways. I have recently been asked to officiate at several Evening Prayer services at Westminster Canterbury beginning this November, 2014. I am also looking forward to integrating myself fully into the community of St. James’s with great excitement, and, yes, some nervousness.

## Ten Years of Movie Theology, Including Coming Attractions

Did you know that St. James’s has been offering Movie Theology since 2005? A lot of movies have been watched and discussed in all that time! They range from humorous films like Monty Python’s *Life of Brian* or *Groundhog Day*, to movies that explore social issues, such as *Crash* or *Dead Man Walking*, to box-office hits that could be considered totally secular, like *The Dark Knight* or *Inception*. Part of the fun is watching the movie with an eye to seeing where God or the Holy Spirit is evident in the characters or situations and sharing your views with others immediately afterwards.



If you’ve missed out on this experience, you can still borrow the DVD from the church and watch it in the comfort of your own home. Contact Anita Lisk ([alisk@doers.org](mailto:alisk@doers.org)) for a list of the movies available and to make arrangements to borrow something you’d like to watch. Better still, join us for Movie Theology at 7:00 p.m. in the Michaux House, where we will be watching & discussing the following films: *Gattaca* (12/5); *Never Let Me Go* (1/16); *Prometheus* (3/27); *Philomena* (4/25); and – especially for families – *The Lego Movie* (5/29). Popcorn provided – you bring your favorite beverage.





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