

# Fall Chimes



Sept. 2015-Nov. 2015 Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.5, No.1

## Inaugural Servant Sunday, Mystical Evening Eucharist Made Possible by Bike Race Week

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As the city of Richmond makes room for the UCI World Cycling Championships on its streets from September 18 to September 27, St. James's will seize the opportunity to hold two Sundays of fresh and creative programming for our parish.

On September 20, we plan to stage our first parish-wide service event for Stop Hunger Now in conjunction with our Every Member Ministry Fair, in an historic morning we are calling Servant Sunday. One week later, September 27, we will convene for worship back in our sanctuary for an evening Eucharist immersed in the Modern Mystics, including music of Whitacre, Tavener and Pärt.

"Our block of West Franklin Street is on the race course, we can grumble about it, or we can see it as a gift – a chance to try something new and creative focused on servant ministry," said Carmen Germino, who has been leading, with Kendal Sibley and Nancy Warman, planning for Servant Sunday.

"We are choosing to embrace this gift as an opportunity to rediscover our core identity as Doers of the Word," she stated.

Due to the use of Franklin Street by racers, services on these two September Sundays will be unique in our 180-year experience. On the first, we will be meeting for worship and honoring our servant ministries at the St. Catherine's School Kenny Hall field house, located on the west boundary of Maple Avenue between

### Servant Sunday

September 20

10:00 a.m. - noon

St. Catherine's School

6001 Grove Avenue

Register in advance,  
event opens at 9:30 a.m.

### Modern Mystics Eucharist

September 27

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

St. James's Church

Grove Avenue and Cary Street Road.

Servant Sunday will be a 10:00 a.m. worship service that will include both the Stop Hunger Now food packaging work and the sign up event for dozens of ministries that is our annual Every Member Ministry Fair. The event is expected to last two hours, or about the normal length of a Eucharist and Sunday study period.

Raleigh, NC-based Stop Hunger Now was founded in 1998 and since has supplied over 180 million meals in 65 countries. As a partner in addressing the problem of world hunger, we purchase the raw materials and convene volunteers for an event that will produce 20,000 single package, nutritionally-balanced meals

*Please turn to page 11*

Find us online all the time:





The Rev. Randolph Marshall  
Hollerith, Rector

## Grounded and Secure

Her kitchen was tiny. There wasn't much counter space, the appliances were old and there was only one place to sit – on small step stool in the corner. But my grandmother's kitchen was my favorite place to be throughout my childhood. My grandmother, Granny as she was known, was a fantastic cook. She made everything from scratch and no matter how hard she actually worked on a dish or a family meal, she always made everything look easy. Now, you might think that her kitchen was my favorite place because her food was wonderful and I enjoy eating. The fact is, her food was wonderful and I do enjoy eating but that wasn't the secret of Granny's kitchen.

Frankly, as I write this, I still am not sure what made her kitchen so special. I'm not sure I know the secret. All I know is that the Spirit was there. All I know is that when I was in that space with her, watching her work, listening to her sing (she couldn't carry a tune in a bucket), I felt at home, grounded, loved and safe. I can't recall any particular conversation we ever had and I don't remember any profound words of wisdom she ever shared while I was sitting there. All I know is that being there with her and my grandfather felt like the most profound home I have ever known. Even as a young adult, home from college or graduate school, I would make my way back to that kitchen just to get a dose of whatever the magic was that she conjured in that little room. Her kitchen was my touchstone, the place where I could reclaim my self, the place where I could sort out the noise, the place where

I found peace and joy. For me, Granny's kitchen was holy space.

I know I sound terribly nostalgic as I write about her kitchen. I think it's because in our culture today it is harder and harder to find those touchstones, those places where we can feel grounded, loved and safe. I think it is hard for us to find holy space, or at least to recognize it when we see it. More and more those locations in our lives are being replaced by virtual experiences. We don't actually have to gather together to talk, we can visit remotely, digitally. Being the techie that I am, the predominance of our digital connectedness doesn't bother me, but I do miss the kitchens of our lives where the magic happened just because we were there, together.

I think that every church, when it's working right, when it's open to the Spirit, ought to be like Granny's kitchen. The church should be a touchstone, a place to come home to, a place where we are welcomed and valued just the way we are. Often I think many churches spend too much time gilding lilies in their kitchen and too little time on the Spirit in the place. They are beautiful spaces but they feel empty. Conversely, the young people who attend summer camp at Shrine Mont rave so much about the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration that if you haven't seen it you might think it is a space that rivals Chartres in beauty and grandeur. In fact, it is a simple, open air, mountain, stone chapel. It's grandeur and power come from the fact that it is a holy space for thousands of people, full of the Spirit, a place where many people

have experienced God's deep love and acceptance. That should be the experience in every church and that is always my goal for our church.

So, as we return to the routines of the fall, I invite you to come home again. Come and be with us and find in this church community a touchstone for your life. Come and worship, come and learn, come and serve. I believe our lives are at their fullest and we know the deepest joy when our lives are firmly grounded in the love of Christ. Let's invite in the Spirit and create a "Granny's kitchen" for all of us.

Blessings,

### Fall Schedules

#### Sundays, Sept. 13 - May 22

- 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 (first and third Sundays)  
Morning Prayer, Rite I (second and fourth Sundays)

#### Office Hours until May 25

- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Monday-Friday
- Closed Labor Day (Sept. 7)



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

## Fall Offers Musical Variety

**M**usic for the fall encompasses a wide array of traditions and worship. Come and hear the Spirit moving.



*We continue to celebrate the gift of Mark and Virginia Whitmire's music ministry here at St. James's... 20 years, and more!*

**September 27 An Evening Service of Holy Eucharist  
Modern Mystics**

7:00 p.m. Music of Whitacre, Tavener and Pärt

**October 3 St. James's Children's Choir sings for  
the Diocesan Stewardship of the Earth  
Conference**

9:00 am at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

**October 4 St. Francis Day and Blessing of  
the Animals**

9:00 a.m. Cherub Choir and Children's Choir

**October 18 U2 Eucharist featuring music by the  
world-famous Irish rock band**

9:00 a.m. West Gallery Choir and Guitar Ensemble



**November 15 Choral Eucharist, *Mass in G minor* (Vaughan Williams) and  
*My soul, there is a country* (Parry)**  
11:15 a.m. Parish Choir

**November 22 Three Choirs Evensong Music  
of Britten, Howells and Purcell**  
5:00 p.m. at St. James's Church, combined choirs  
of St. James's, St. Paul's and  
St. Stephen's





*The Rev. Hilary Streever,  
Associate Rector*

## New Job, New Home, New Household

Settling in to my new position as associate rector responsible for adult formation has been nothing less than a joy. The camaraderie and affection among you all, parishioners, staff and clergy, has made this priest feel so very welcome and already part of this household of God.

This is somewhat of a homecoming, for I was born in Richmond. When I was five years old, my mother, sister and I moved to Clarksville, Virginia. There we attended my grandmother's Baptist church for six years until we joined the small and loving Episcopal parish of St. Timothy's.

I attended Virginia Tech to study Wildlife Science and Biology and added a degree in Leadership & Social Change. When something still felt missing, I admitted I might be called to ministry and began the discernment process. After a few years in France, I matriculated to Berkeley Divinity School at Yale in 2009.

2012 was a whirlwind year: I graduated, got engaged to David Streever, and was called to St. Thomas in Abingdon, Virginia, as priest-in-charge. This wonderful parish taught me much about ministry, about Christian life and leadership, and about the fruit of the Spirit.

Now the Holy Spirit has led David and me here! I thank God, Randy, and the Search Committee for calling us. David and I moved to the Fan and have been easing into life at St. James's and in

Richmond – we are loving it.

Christian education by definition requires a diverse and varied curriculum, so this semester our adult formation schedule will provide a wide variety of topics and areas of learning. The popular Sunday Bible Study with the Rev. Dr. Thom Blair will return three Sundays a month, continuing with the Gospel of Mark. Those same Sundays we will offer Short Courses – courses one to four Sundays in length on a variety of topics, including: eco-theology, deacons and the diaconate, the News & the Good News, and monastic spiritual practices.

The last Sunday of the month will be Adult Forum classes. Topics and speakers for these Sundays will reflect and build on biblical and theological themes discussed in Bible studies and Short Courses, and are meant to connect us to people and places in our greater community where we might meet God and participate with God as Doers. At the forums scheduled for October 25 and November 20 we'll be hearing from our local mission and outreach projects.

Wednesdays evenings we will once again offer the "Pilgrim's Path," our ten-week course designed to give adults an overview of the Christian faith as understood and lived by Episcopalians. Concurrently, our "Christian Journey" series will offer a variety of speakers and topics, including creation, creationism and evolution; the separation of Church and State; last year's pilgrimage to the

Holy Land; the Jewish roots of Christianity; the future of Richmond Hill.

Our annual parish retreat to Shrine Mont will be held October 23 through 25. We plan for this retreat to offer plenty of intergenerational opportunities to learn, grow and worship together.

Be sure to check out the Fall Program Insert for specific course offerings and dates!

I look forward to getting to know you. Please call or email if you'd like to meet for coffee or lunch, or if you have ideas you'd like to be considered for classes, retreats or pilgrimages.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary".



The Rev. Carmen Germino,  
Assistant Rector

## Join us for Servant Sunday!

September 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The Kenny Center at St. Catherine's School, 6001 Grove Avenue

I hope you will join us at St. Catherine's School on Sunday, September 20 from 10:00 a.m. to noon for Servant Sunday, an offsite worship event!

### What is Servant Sunday?

Every Sunday, we pray, sing, reflect, and break bread together under this verse from our patron saint's epistle: "Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only." Servant Sunday is a special opportunity to put those words into action during worship. We will meet at St. Catherine's School and we will participate in two different activities as a congregation. We will have our Every Member's Ministry fair going on, where you'll be able to learn about and sign up for a variety of different outreach opportunities. And we'll be doing an outreach project together: packaging 20,000+ meals with Stop Hunger Now!

### Why are we doing this?

Well, the short answer is that we needed to find an alternate worship site during the UCI Road World Championships Bicycle Race. The longer answer is that each of us is called to be a servant, and this is an exciting new way to remind ourselves of this call. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells his disciples, that he "...came not to be served but to serve..." He also says that we are to emulate him. We recommit to this call every time we reaffirm our baptismal vows, when we say that we will "seek and serve Christ in all persons..." Packaging 20,000 meals for hungry people in need may not solve worldwide malnutrition, but it will make a huge difference in someone's life, and it is a way that our

congregation can all serve together.

### How exactly is this going to work?

We are asking everyone to register ahead of time at <http://events.stophungernow.org/SJE2015>. On the morning of September 20, come to St. Catherine's School. You will arrive, check in, and head to the gym. We'll begin with music, prayers, and scripture like we always do. Then we will divide into two groups. One group will pack meals with Stop Hunger Now, while the other group attends the Every Member's Ministry Fair. Then the groups will swap places. After those activities, we will gather together again to celebrate the Eucharist, and then we will go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

### So, you want me to RSVP for church?

Yes, if at all possible. I know that's not how worship usually works, but on this occasion, it will be really helpful to know approximately how many people are planning to attend. Also, everyone who participates in packing meals with Stop Hunger Now needs to sign a waiver. If you register online ahead of time, you can skip the line to sign a paper waiver the morning of the event.

### Who can participate and will there be child care?

All are welcome! Ages 4 to 104+ can fully participate in packing meals and learning about servant ministry. For those younger than 4, nursery care will be available.

### When should I arrive and how long will it last?

The service begins at 10:00 a.m., but please arrive at St. Catherine's School

well before then! You'll need to allow time to park/walk/check in/get the baby settled in the nursery, etc. We plan to wrap up around noon or shortly after.

### Where should I park?

At home, if possible! We are encouraging anyone who is able to walk or ride their bikes to St. Catherine's, because parking is limited. Of course, we know that many folks will need to drive and that's fine. Please consider carpooling if possible. In the weeks before the event, we will post maps of available lots on our website to help you plan your route.

### What should I wear?

Dress casually and comfortably. Skip the coat and tie, definitely no high heels—you may be standing a lot. T-shirts, shorts, jeans, and sneakers are all very appropriate for Servant Sunday. Add a favorite baseball cap, if you don't like how you look in a hairnet.

### How can I help?

First and foremost, sign up and come be with us at St. Catherine's School on September 20 for Servant Sunday. We also need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Please logon to [bit.ly/2015ServantSunday](http://bit.ly/2015ServantSunday) to sign up for a volunteer spot.

I hope you and your family will come be with us for this exciting parish-wide opportunity to pray, learn, and serve together. See you on Servant Sunday in the St. Catherine's gym on September 20!

Faithfully,

*Carmen*



Mary Beth Abplanalp,  
Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry

### All New, All Youth, All Fall

#### Goodbye Sunday School, Hello Youth Group!

Thanks to parish-wide input collected at the Youth Ministry Strategic Planning Vision Retreat in April 2015, the Youth Ministry Committee has embraced a new approach to Youth Ministry beginning this fall. Instead of Youth Sunday School with a traditional classroom format, we will now offer three Youth Groups on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:00 a.m. for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. We pray these offerings reach youth where they are and foster growth along their spiritual journey.

Youth Group will offer students a relaxed environment where they can have fun exploring their faith in a welcoming community by playing games, doing projects, and serving others. It will feel more like camp than school. It will involve more conversation than lecture. We'll snack. We'll laugh. We'll pray and let the Holy Spirit be our guide. Our 9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet separately for Confirmation, but that too will also have a slightly new look. All youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome and encouraged to participate! If you feel called to serve as an adult youth leader, Mary Beth would love to treat you to coffee to talk more about your interest.

#### Three Sunday Morning Groups

- "JYF" or Junior Youth Fellowship – Youth Group for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders meets most Sundays at 10:15
- Confirmation – Youth Group for 9<sup>th</sup> graders meets most Sundays at 10:15 [Older youth who desire to be confirmed, are encouraged to contact Mary Beth or a member of our clergy about a confirmation process tailored to your individual situation.]
- "SYF" or Senior Youth Fellowship – Youth Group for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders meets monthly at 10:15 Sunday.

#### You're Invited! Youth Ministry Kick Off September 13

Sunday, September 13, 10:15-11:00 a.m. for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Youth & Parents  
Come learn about the 2015-2016 Youth Ministry offerings at St. James's. You'll get to meet our adult youth leaders, catch up with new and old friends, and hear about our new Youth Groups, youth retreats, and other activities available for youth at St. James's in the upcoming year.

Love ya! Mean it!

#### A Prayer for Young Persons

(Source: BCP, p.829)

**G**od our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*



Becky Page  
Director of Children's Ministries

## Children Can Be Doers

*"Be Ye Doers"*

James 1:22

**W**e at St. James's are doers. I have heard it said that being a doer is part of our DNA. *Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only.* Those words are painted above the altar for all to see. But what is a doer? Merriam Webster defines a doer as one who actively does things instead of just thinking or talking about them.

This spring I was thinking a lot about how to get our children involved in service as doers. I was also talking a lot about the idea of getting our children involved in service as doers. Thinking and talking may be a good start, but they do not meet the definition of a doer. While I was talking with a volunteer about potential service opportunities for the children of St. James's she mentioned that her seven year old son had asked, "What does it mean to be a doer?" If we want to raise doers at St. James's we need to provide them with opportunities to serve.

We have incorporated service into some Sunday school lessons by making cards for older members of our congregation to share the Good News of Christmas, by making "Good Samaritan Soup" to share with those who are hungry, and by making prayer cards for our CARITAS guests. I think, with our help, the children of St. James's can do more, serve more, and learn more. Several of the ministries in place

at St. James's could be natural avenues for our children to serve. The Taste of St. James's, WomanKind, and CARITAS are obvious choices and will allow our children to build connections within our St. James's community while giving of themselves and serving others.

The children of St. James's are blessed in so many ways. Together we



[www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com)

can help them share those blessings with others. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of the Children's Ministry service team or have ideas as to ways our children can serve others.

### Sunday School Registration

Information about the 2015-16 Sunday School program including Parent letter, calendar, and registration and volunteer interest was sent to the parents of all children age two through rising fifth grade in early August. Please make sure to return your registration form to the church office so that we can be prepared for the Sunday school Open House on September 13. Additional forms are available on the website [www.doers.org](http://www.doers.org).

### Box Tops for Education

Have you seen these labels on the side of products you buy at the grocery store? They are on hundreds of items that you buy every day from Ziploc and trash bags to cereal and pizza boxes. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents. Starting in September, the Children's Ministry will start collecting Box Tops to benefit Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School, an independent, faith-based middle school for students of limited resources primarily from Richmond's East End neighborhood. All students receive a full-tuition scholarship to attend. Throughout the year the Sunday school classes will have the opportunity to count, sort, and tally the Box Tops. Please consider saving your Box Tops for AJCES and supporting the children's ministry as they help others. The collection box will be located on the second floor of the Michaux House.

Blessings,

# How We Spent Our (La



*A project:HOMES team accomplished needed renovations and repairs in our community in May.*



*Laura Shuford served the birthday cake that was part of our Founders Sunday in June.*



*Nancy Warman and Billy Poarch welcomed volunteers to an ACTS recognition breakfast hosted by St. James's.*



*After donations filled the ACTS House, we held a packing party to divide up the gifts for families in need.*



*(left) The 2015 Confirmation class prepared meals for Breaking Bread at Safe Haven, a non-profit residence associated with the Daily Planet.*

*(right) In June, we celebrated Mark and Virginia Whitmire's first 20 years of St. James's music ministry at a wild Texas Throwdown.*





# te Spring and) Summer



Mozart's magnificent Requiem in D minor was performed by the Festival Chorus and Orchestra at the Memorial Concert on May 24, recognizing members of the armed services.



June's Vacation Bible School was a roaring success with our Snow Leopard mascot leading explorers on an Everest Adventure.



(above and right) While the Cooper clan looked on, we offered our thanks and a cake with cyclist to Mark Cooper as he left our staff in June.



(left) Twelve senior high missionaries ventured to the Blackfeet nation in the far northwest corner of Montana for a week of service in July.



(left) Philip Cave (with the beard) led an all star quartet through vocal pieces as one of our three concerts in June that are the annual Welcome Summer Recital series.



(right) The 9<sup>th</sup> grade PYM weekend was at Shrine Mont last May.



Nancy Warman,  
Director of Servant Ministry

## Called to Serve

a kindergarten child with special needs;  
 a middle school boy who needs a mentor;  
 a homeless woman who needs a hot meal;  
 the blind man who needs a support system;  
 the family who needs a home;  
 an abused child who needs an advocate;  
 a woman in jail who needs a friend;  
 our church member who needs support  
 a man who needs a job;  
 a patient who needs a friendly visit;  
 the elderly gentleman who needs house repairs;  
 the family that needs food and clothing

### Do you hear God calling? What is your response?

I hope each and every one will attend our September 20 Servant Sunday at St. Catherine's School (details on front cover and in Carmen's Chimes message). I encourage each of you to pause; to give some thought and prayer before that day to God's call to you. Listen for His voice or feel His nudge as you discern your ministry. In Baptism, God calls us to serve as the hands and feet of Christ; to serve Christ in all persons, to be the vessels through which His life and love are made known. As Baptized "doers," we say "I will, with God's help."

Come join in the Every Member's Ministry event at which time you can speak directly to lay leaders and hear first-hand accounts of ministry opportunities with and among your church friends. Put your love in action and

come pack meals with Stop Hunger Now. It will be a fun and joyous day to be together, to say together, "we will, with God's help," and to serve the Lord with gladness!

### NEW MINISTRIES!

During the Every Member's Ministry Fair, please note two new in-reach ministries, for those who wish to serve our own church members:

#### DAN (Doers Action Network)

A team of volunteers who serve on an "on-call" basis to provide periodic support and assistance to a member of the church. Possible support services could include, but wouldn't be limited to things such as minor plumbing work, changing light bulbs, short-term yard work, shoveling snow, limited household chores, hanging pictures, transportation, balancing a checkbook, organizing health care documentation, or providing a friendly visit. This team will serve those who are members of St. James's church family and particularly those who are financially or physically unable to care for themselves with these particular needs. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact lay leader Harry Warner (hhwarner@msn.com/357-8157).

#### Professionals in Action

A team of volunteers with professional expertise, such as accountants, lawyers, financial planners, eldercare/nursing home specialists, and building contractors that provides consultation to the Director of Servant Ministry/

social worker in addressing issues and questions that relate to the needs of a church member. Volunteers work on a periodic "as needed" basis; from time to time when a need arises, Nancy calls a member of this group for consultation on how to help resolve a particular need. Your contact information is treated confidentially and used only by the Director of Servant Ministry and the clergy. If you can assist, please contact me directly.

If you have questions about ministry opportunities or if I can help you discern your ministry, please contact me at nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779 ext. 333.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:  
 CARITAS INTAKE: October 24-  
 December 19, 2015**

*Nancy Warman*

BIKE RACE *continued from cover*

that only require the addition of boiling water. All parishioners are able to assist in the meal assembly.

St. Catherine's School is located on Grove Avenue and offers plenty of parking (see map below) and a welcoming environment. Registration will open at 9:30 a.m. on September 20 and volunteers are needed to help with the sign in, act as way-finding assistants on the campus, staff the nursery and to help parishioners get to the floor of the gym, where the event will be held. Volunteers can sign up at <http://bit.ly/2015ServantSunday>.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Stop Hunger Now packing event. All attending are asked to sign up in advance so that the proper waiver can be created for your participation. The packing event sign up is online at <http://events.stophungernow.org/SJE2015>. If you are unable to use the online page, there will be paper registration forms in the narthex, Michaux House and at the Parish Picnic.

The end of the UCI race is in the afternoon of September 27, which will allow everyone to arrive at our sanctuary in time for the Eucharist scheduled for 7:00 p.m. that evening, with music from composers Whitacre, Tavener and Pärt. This special service will be our "welcome home" Lord's Supper and the Parish Choir will be singing anthems and liturgical selections.

Along with requiring special Sundays, the UCI event will also displace our parish office the week of September 21. The Parish House at 1205 West Franklin will be closed for those five days, although the staff will be available by email and will be working from home. The St. James's Children's Center will also be closed on Tuesday, September 22 and Friday, September 25, due to streets closed for the race course.

# WomanKind

## Who Cares? Cultivating Compassion for the Saint, the Sinner, and the Self on February 26-27, 2016

### *Calling All Sinners & Saints – Save the Date for WomanKind 2016*

For more than a decade now, St. James's has hosted WomanKind – a unique and powerful event that offers attendees an opportunity for introspection in the companionship of other women who wish to explore the mysteries of our faith. WomanKind doesn't preach – it invites participants to search their souls for a deeper understanding and peace with themselves and our world. It is a rare opportunity to explore within the context of our faith community ways to strengthen our spirit and each other.

Next February, WomanKind will explore the theme of "Who Cares? Cultivating Compassion for the Saint, the Sinner, and the Self," with keynote speaker, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and preacher Becca Stevens, who will lead the worship service. Nadia is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners



*Bolz-Weber*



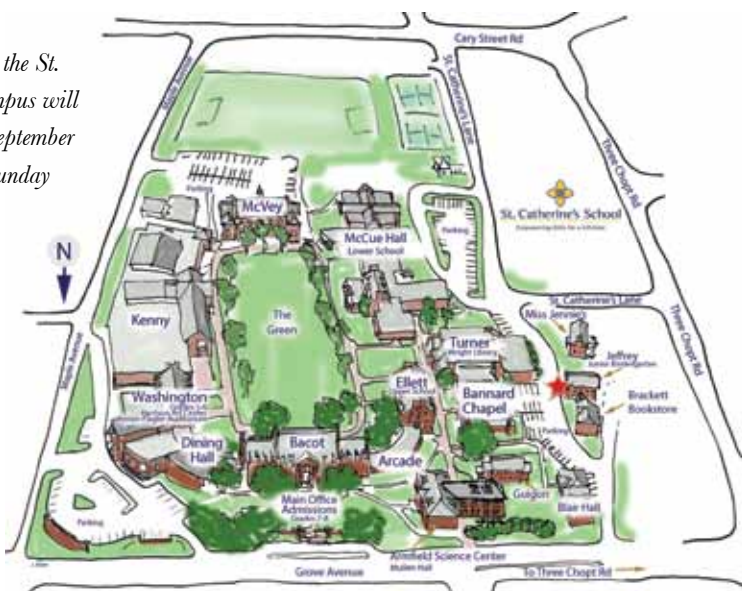
*Stevens*

and Saints in Denver, Colorado and the author of the New York Times best selling theological memoir, [Pastrix: the Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint](#).

Becca, recently featured in the PBS documentary "A Path Appears," is an author, Episcopal priest, and founder of Thistle Farms-Magdalene, a community of women who have survived prostitution, trafficking and addiction. Workshops will feature Nicole Unice (from HOPE Church), Gena Adams-Riley, meditation teacher, and others.

More at <https://www.facebook.com/womankind.richmond>.

*Kenny Hall on the St. Catherine's campus will be the site of September 20's Servant Sunday*



## Building Knowledge One Experience at a Time

by Debbie Lickey

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

Like constructing a house, brains are built upon a strong foundation. Brain formation starts before birth and continues throughout a child's first years of life. Brain cells can be thought of as "raw" materials – much like lumber is a raw material in building a house. Once a strong brain foundation is established, a child's experiences and interactions build on this structure much like a builder adds to a home's foundation with wiring, drywall and paint.

At St. James's Children's Center, we are acutely aware of our responsibility to "build out" children's learning through creating rich opportunities for brain growth. We are especially sensitive to what this means for children who might not otherwise have access to experiences that provide this strong foundation. At the Children's Center, we help build strong brain foundations by creating authentic learning opportunities.

Authentic learning opportunities are those activities which allow children to engage in learning based on their own interests and experiences. When learning is based on a child's own experience, the brain uses that foundation to create a blueprint for new learning. Most importantly, authentic learning develops a lifelong love of learning.

Capitalizing on children's experiences as a starting point is essential in teaching children to think original thoughts, to make plans based on those thoughts, and to follow through with those plans to reach goals. And throughout this process they learn, with teacher guidance, how to negotiate with others in



order to reach goals.

Our recent Snake Week activities are a great example of authentic learning. Miss Britany used Snake Week to further her class's understanding of length and measurements. Children began by discussing and measuring their own bodies. They used this foundational understanding of their own bodies to measure the length of various snakes. Though adding and subtracting bodies, the children determined that an anaconda is equal to three "friends" long. Similarly, the class developed a true understanding that the three-inch thread snake equals to zero "friends" long. Finally, the children made their class snake of 31 feet, or nine "friends" long (see illustration). This experiential learning established a firm understanding of length and measurement.

The upcoming UCI bike races in September give us another great opportunity for experi-

ential learning. The children will have the opportunity to watch the bikers, ride their own bikes, and begin to take apart (and hopefully put together) other items with wheels. Experiments with ramps and other surfaces will provide a touch of physics and a way to hypothesize how wheels work. We would love donations of old skateboards, roller skates, small tricycles, or skateboards that the children could use or actually take apart. Before and during the races, we will also be looking for individuals to provide us with stories about their own experience with bike riding. If you are an avid biker (or have ever ridden a bike in your life) we would love your presence, your stories and your interactions with the children as they explore this topic. Please email me if this is something that interests you as we begin our school year.

Always in Partnership,

Debbie



*To build their foundational understanding of measurement, our pre-K made a Class Snake which equaled 31 feet or nine "friends" in length.*

## Patton-Kiehl Group, Jay Patton Recognized With First Parish Communications Award

Patton-Kiehl Group, Inc., a national direct mail house in which Jay Patton is a partner, was recognized by the St. James's Communications Committee with the first parish James D. Patton Communications Award for its long-term work on church mailings.

"We named the award after Jay as a way of permanently honoring the stewardship he has exercised by arranging for our church communications to be assembled and mailed at no cost to us," said committee co-chair Laura Strickler.

Patton-Kiehl has been the exclusive mailer for a decade of all parish materials, including monthly calendars, monthly and Quarterly Chimes, invitations to special events such as Mardi Gras for Missions and WomanKind,



*Jay Patton shows us around the Woodford plant last month.*

brochures and resource guides. The company has printed a number of the mailings, assembled them in their Woodford plant, applied postage and delivered to the post office over half a million pieces of mail.

### Earthly Matters

by Betty Byrne Ware  
Stewards of the Earth Committee

#### Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

The first time I heard a talk about recycling, I was awed when the speaker said, "You throw things away, but there is no away. Those things have to go somewhere." That somewhere is a landfill, of which there are 3,091 in the US, plus over 10,000 old municipal landfills. Landfill liners are only 1/10 of an inch thick, so all landfills will eventually leak hazardous material into the groundwater. We should, as stewards of this good earth that blessedly has been given to us, be aware of and consider these realities.

Since World War II, there has been wide promotion of things "disposable," as if this is a great plus. It costs municipalities an average \$45 a ton to haul our "disposables" to landfills. In 2013, almost 15 million tons of waste were sent to Virginia landfills, the same year that the recycling rate decreased to 41%.

What can good stewards do? First of all, we try to Reduce the amount of unnecessary items that we buy.

Second, we should Reuse as much as possible. Think cloth towels and napkins, metal utensils, ceramic plates instead of paper or plastic. We can bring our own covered travel mugs to church for coffee or use the ceramic ones that are provided.

Third, we can Recycle all possible items instead of "throwing them away". Thankfully, our church recycles for us. It is important that we recycle all mixed paper, cardboard (unwaxed and clean of food), metal and aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles and #1 and 2 plastic narrow neck bottles. Clearly marked recycling bins are set out for us and it is important NOT to throw other materials in those containers.

It is my hope that you will train your children about the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycling, and that you will adopt these programs at your homes, offices, and at church.

### Sacred Spaces

by Becky DeCamps

#### Minor Memorial Chapel

Have you been in the Chapel for a service? An evening prayer? A wedding? Eucharist? If the answer is 'Yes', you understand the closeness of community when seated or when gathered at the Altar rail. Behind is the Alpha / Omega window, a reminder that our Christ is ever present...the beginning and the end. Do you feel the acoustics in the room, particularly when the parish choir sings the last anthem here, or when the hushed voice leads prayer? Have you looked up to see the small balcony, with the door leading to the Sanctuary?

This space, before the 1994 fire, was the Sacristy, where all preparation was done for the service...where the Fair Linen was lovingly cared for in order to host the communion at the Altar.



Have you experienced the silence of this space memorializing members of the Minor family?

Come early, come late. Be present with the Holy.

# Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall  
Director of Stewardship and  
Development*

## My Dream Job

**A**s I approached my 30-year anniversary as Director of Communications at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, I began to vision for a next chapter in my life. I prayed that God would show me doors when they were opened and give me the courage to walk through them to a fulfilling new occupation. I began to seek out other arts-related jobs or projects.

And then Randy called.

Becoming the Director of Stewardship at St. James's had not occurred to me, so I needed to discern whether I was called to this work. I thought about my 40 years in this parish – worship, missions, vestry, EfM, WomanKind, and more. My daughter Sloan participated in the first mission trips to Honduras and South Dakota, and St. George's Camp at Shrine Mont changed her life. My son McKendree was Joseph in the Christmas pageant our first year in Beth Ahabah after the fire. Our daughter Larkin was married here in 2002. And 22 years ago, I met my husband Joe at St. James's, the church that has always been a pivotal part of our lives.

Meeting Joe is a great story: It was January and I was an usher. Joe was seeking a spiritual home, but he always left during the closing hymn so we didn't get a chance to talk until later in the month. The Sunday after that conversation, he put a generous gift in the offering plate, and I knew this was a Christian who was moved by the Spirit.

Ten months later, we were married at St. James's.

I've always taken "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only" seriously, and St. James's is where I nurture my faith among our vibrant community of saints. It was revealed to me that I had actually been called to St. James's long ago, and that working as the Director of Stewardship and Development was the next step in my journey.

Giving is a joyous part of our faith, because all our gifts come from God. Faithful giving supports our home of worship and community. It enables St. James's to extend its loving arms into the world and to those in need in Richmond and beyond. We do not establish a budget for the coming year until we have received all annual pledges, because that sum determines what we have to spend to live our mission. In my new role, I realize what a faithful practice this is, and how important it is that each person in our parish be led by the Spirit in their giving.

You will receive your annual giving cards in mid-September. Co-Chairs Geoff Sisk, Peggy Crowley, Bobbie

Ukrop, and I look forward to thanking you for your regular contributions to fuel our place of inspiration, worship, and refuge.

We'll celebrate the conclusion of the annual giving campaign with the always spectacular Feast of St. James's on October 28, when we honor each other, enjoy a wonderful meal, and savor the Holy Spirit who is always among us.

May you be moved by the Spirit!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "SUZANNE". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

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## Let the Spirit Move You

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# The Interview

**T**he Chimes asked Connell Mullins, chair of the Outreach Fund Committee, about the agencies we support and how the funds are allocated.

**Chimes:** What is the purpose of our annual Outreach Fund?

**CM:** The Outreach Fund is a significant line item in the church budget (\$85,000 for 2015), entrusted to our committee to provide financial grants to organizations and agencies in the Richmond area that provide support and assistance to those most in need in our local community. Over the last several years, the Outreach Committee has focused its support on agencies that serve and support the homeless community, including people who are at risk of becoming homeless, and on agencies that support children's education for low income families. Among the various agencies that we support are four signature ministries – the St. James's Children Center, the Peter Paul Development Center, ACTS (Area Congregations Together in Service), and CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) – with which we have particularly strong connections.

**Chimes:** How has this fund assisted with the needs of our community?

**CM:** Over the last five years combined, we have awarded grants totaling just shy of \$400,000 to approximately two dozen agencies at work in the local Richmond community. Even during the leaner years following the recent global economic slowdown, the Vestry and Clergy of St. James's ensured that the budget for the Outreach Committee remained a priority for the church. This loyal support has had a truly significant impact on the success of the agencies we support, and we as a committee are always mindful of our responsibility to be faithful stewards of this important ministry.

**Chimes:** Tell us a little about how the agency requests are considered and the committee's work accomplished.



*Connell Mullins, chair of the Outreach Fund*

**CM:** We evaluate agencies in two primary ways. In the late spring/early summer, our Committee solicits written requests for funding from approximately 25 different agencies serving various needs of the local Richmond community. The applications include detailed questionnaires about the agency's mission, its financial strength, its structure and board composition, and the specific use that will be made of any funds that may be awarded, and we also require the submission of the agencies' budgets and other financial information. While we have many agencies that receive support on a recurring basis from St. James's, an invitation to submit a request for funding is no guarantee of support. Nancy Warman coordinates the distribution of the submitted materials and each member of our committee takes responsibility for a detail review of 3-4 applications and for presenting summaries of those applications to the entire committee (currently 8 lay members of the congregation) during a comprehensive review session. Members are provided electronic access to every application for their own review. During the review process, we might contact the agencies directly to answer questions and gather additional information. The review session involves vigorous discussion and evaluation of all requests for funding and usually takes several hours, after which members of the committee allocate their "vote" on levels of support to award, based on our budget for the

year. It might take additional discussion and evaluation via email to work to a consensus. The funds are typically distributed to the recipients during the summer. We publish the final amounts awarded to each agency in the Church's Annual Report. We also evaluate agencies by site visits. Most months, our committee picks an organization to visit, where we can see the agency at work "in the field," interact with the staff and learn from their experiences. Parishioners are invited to come to any of these visits. We will invite agency directors to visit with us at the church, occasionally. Given the number of agencies we support, we don't get to visit with every agency on an annual basis.

**Chimes:** What would be the benefits of increasing/expanding the amounts available in the Fund?

**CM:** Any increase in funding for the Outreach Budget will enable us to work towards full funding for the requests we receive. In 2015, our budget of \$85,000 represents just less than 60% of the total amount of funds being requested. The last strategic plan for the church, adopted in February 2010, set an ambitious goal of raising the Outreach Budget to \$200,000. The unfortunate timing of the global recession pushed that goal off schedule, but our Outreach Committee would love to see that ambitious goal become a reality over the next few years.

**Chimes:** How can the parish find out more about the agencies we are supporting?

**CM:** All of the agencies receiving support from the Outreach Committee are identified in the St. James's Annual Report, along with the amount of their grant for the year. Many of these agencies have long standing relationships with the church, our clergy, and with members of our congregation, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in a particular agency to visit their website or to contact Nancy Warman for additional information.



## St. James's Episcopal Church

1205 West Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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The Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith, *Rector*  
Russell Lawson, *Editor*  
Church Office: 804-355-1779 **www.doers.org**

### The Staff

Mary Beth Abplanalp  
*Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*  
mbabplanalp@doers.org

Winnie Perilla Canup  
*Development Director*  
*St. James's Children's Center*  
wpcanup@doers.org

The Rev. Bob Friend  
*Priest Associate*  
revbfriender@hotmail.com

The Rev. Carmen Germino  
*Associate Rector*  
cgermino@doers.org

Suzanne Hall  
*Director of Stewardship and Development*  
shall@doers.org

The Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
*Rector*  
rhollerith@doers.org

Russell Lawson  
*Director of Communications*  
russellawson@doers.org

Debbie Lickey  
*Executive Director*  
*St. James's Children's Center*  
debbielickey@doers.org

Anita Lisk  
*Parish Coordinator*  
alisk@doers.org

Becky Page  
*Director of Children's Ministries*  
beckypage@doers.org

The Rev. Caroline Smith Parkinson  
*Priest Associate*  
csp@activated.com

Matt Presson  
*Facilities Manager*  
mpresson@doers.org

Laura Shuford  
*Facilities Coordinator*  
lshuford@doers.org

The Rev. Hilary Streever  
*Associate Rector*  
hstreever@doers.org

Poconna S. Thiel  
*Financial Secretary*  
pthiel@doers.org

Emily Thrower  
*Communications Assistant*  
ethrower@doers.org

Nancy Warman  
*Director of Servant Ministry*  
nwarman@doers.org

Dr. Mark Whitmire  
*Music Director*  
mwhitmire@doers.org

Virginia Whitmire  
*Organist and Choir Director*  
vwhitmire@doers.org

Gina Young  
*Administrative Assistant*  
gyoung@doers.org

**REMINDER:** Please make sure the church office has your updated e-mail address and other pertinent information. Contact Gina Young in the church office (gyoung@doers.org/355-1779) and the lay leaders of your ministry teams.

### 2015 Vestry Members

Willson Craigie  
craigiefam@comcast.net

Peggy Crowley  
pcrowley21@comcast.net

Becky DeCamps  
rahylton2@gmail.com

Carol Ann Fuller  
carolannfuller1@gmail.com

Matt Harper, Junior Warden  
matt@mhrservices.com

C. Knox Hubard, Jr.  
knoxandsarah@comcast.net

Jay Jordan  
jjordan@heritagewealth.net

Carrie Montague  
carriemontague29@gmail.com

Harry Moore  
hmoore@wfofr.com

Connell Mullins  
cmullins@spottsfain.com

Gloria Prevatt  
gjcp42@icloud.com

Allan Rees  
William.A.Rees@altria.com

Tom Porterfield  
tompfild@aol.com

Tina Sherrod  
cbemig@yahoo.com

Geoff Sisk, Senior Warden  
geoffrey.sisk@wfadvisors.com

Bobbie Ukrop  
bobbie.ukrop@gmail.com

Kathryn B. West  
k-west@comcast.net

Norvell B. Whitaker  
norvellwhitaker@mac.com



