



Fall Chimes



Sept. 2016-Nov. 2016 Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.6, No.1

Enthusiasm for Servant Sunday Continues with This Year's Plan!

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On Sunday, the 11th of September, we will hold our second annual Servant Sunday that will include worship in our sanctuary, multiple outreach project opportunities, and will conclude with our annual parish picnic at Rock Bottom, Associate Rector Carmen Germino explains.

"As we begin a new program year, this will be a wonderful way to celebrate St. James's core identity as a parish of Doers of the Word," she remarks.

The Servant Sunday Committee aided by Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry, and Carmen, have selected many options for serving in our community on Servant Sunday. Along with a repeat of the Stop Hunger Now food bag packing ministry, almost a dozen other opportunities will be open for volunteers of all ages around the campus and at agencies in the community.

Nancy urges us to sign up for a Servant Sunday ministry online in advance if possible. The form is on doers.org — use this link: <http://bit.ly/ServSunday2016>. Space is limited for most of our outreach projects, so the sooner you sign up, the more likely you'll get your favorites. Some opportunities to serve will fill up quickly, so don't wait until the last minute. But, even if you do not make a choice in advance, there will be some projects you can sign up for on the day of Servant Sunday.

Dress casually and get to church early on September 11 to park, sign in and pick

Servant Sunday

September 11

9:15 a.m.	Registration opens
10:00 a.m.	Worship begins (St. James's Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m.	Service projects begin (Various locations)
12:30 p.m.	Parish Picnic begins (Rock Bottom)

up details on your assignment. We will start worship right at 10:00 a.m., and try to be starting our project work around 10:45 a.m. All parishioners and all ages are encouraged to be Doers this Sunday. There will be nursery care for children under 4, should you need it.

Ministries for Doers (details on the website)

Stop Hunger Now (Michaux House)

100 Doers needed, kids age 4+ are welcome with an adult

Decorating Bags for ACTS (Michaux House)

Unlimited Doers needed, kids 4+ are welcome with an adult

Shopping for CARITAS (Dollar Tree)

Unlimited Doers needed, kids of all ages are welcome with an adult

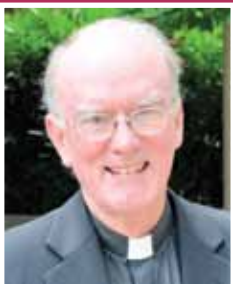
Hilliard House/Housing Families First (3900 Nine Mile Rd.)

Unlimited Doers needed, kids 4+ are welcome with an adult

Please turn to page 11

Find us online all the time:





From the Interim Rector's Desk

It's Going To Turn Out Fine

*The Rev. Dr. Thom Blair, Jr.,
Interim Rector*

As some of you may already have heard by way of the proverbial grapevine, your vestry has invited me to join the staff here at St. James's and to serve as your interim rector until a new rector can be found. So, I've accepted the invitation, happily, and am getting myself ready to start up soon.

I don't really think it will be, or should be, my job to try to fill Randy's shoes. That would be foolishness. And it feels wrongheaded to think about it that way. Randy was, to say the least, one of a kind. But I do think it will be my job to do what I can to help us get through this next year in good shape, strong and healthy, despite all the anxious feelings and worries and uncertainties that afflict every parish family when a beloved rector goes elsewhere.

One of the great advantages we have going into this interim is that we already have in place a tremendously gifted and dedicated staff, both clergy and lay. It is hard to imagine myself landing in the midst of a staff any finer than this one. They are experienced and very good at what they do. So a large part of my work will be to support them when they need support, and encourage them when they need encouragement. I'm sure they'll do the same for me.

And the same must be said of our lay leadership. We have a fine, energetic, and persistent Senior Warden in Peggy Crowley, a strong vestry, and a first rate search committee. Together, they all make for a rector's dream come true. It doesn't get much better.

Still, I feel like I need to say as well that it would be odd indeed if we did

not hit some rough spots somewhere during this interim period. If that should happen, I am a big believer in talking honestly, but kindly, with one another about the things that concern us. In church life, there is never a substitute for treating one another with kindness and respect, and especially so when things get a little rocky. So, I'm hoping we can all keep our eyes and hearts fixed in this direction, both in the easy times and the hard times.

So, all that said, I look forward to traveling along this next leg of the journey with you and trust that, in the end, it's going to turn out just fine.

As ever,

Fall Schedules

Sundays, Sept. 18 - May 21

- 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 26

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

July 30, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been more than a month since my last Sunday at St. James's. I miss you all but these past weeks have been busy with transition preparations, meetings at the Cathedral, and some precious time with family.

Thank you for the kindness and love you have shown my family and me. Our last Sunday together was a day we will never forget. The gifts, letters, hugs and handshakes were wonderful. The beauty of the altar flowers, the warmth and hospitality of the reception, the beautiful painting of St. James's and your incredibly generous check — overwhelmed us. We feel so blessed. Thank you for all of it! Thank you for loving us and sending us on our way prepared for the next chapter.

As summer draws to a close and fall approaches, please know that you are in my prayers. Remember, we are all bound together by the communion of Saints, we all serve the same Lord. I have been called to serve in a different place, but I am a better person and a better priest because of our time together. Thank you for all the gifts you have given me for 16 years.

God bless and keep you,



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

What a summer! What a fall!

We had a wonderful summer of music at St. James's. Our annual Welcome Summer Recital Series began on June 1 with an organ recital by Kevin Kwan, organist at Christ and St. Luke's, Norfolk.



Kevin played a varied program that included a delightful set of spirituals arranged by the jazz pianist George

Shearing. On June 8 the series continued with a concert by St. James's Festival Chorus presenting "A Worcester Prelude," a sample of music we would sing in England. The third concert of the series was a recital by Gus Highstein, oboist of the Richmond Symphony, who was joined by a string trio from the symphony and two vocal soloists. Among many highlights were the songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams, performed by Gus's eleven-year-old daughter Agata. The simple yet sublime texts by William

Blake were thoroughly brought to life by her sweet voice.

Choir Trip to England

Our choir was in residence at Worcester Cathedral from July 11 to July 17, singing evensong each day and mass on Sunday. Repertoire included three settings of the Preces and Responses, three settings of the evening service (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis), thirteen Anglican chant psalms, and eight anthems. The trip was blessed in every way. The choir sang beautifully and was well-received by all. The trip afforded time for prayer and contemplation in the holy space of the cathedral. There was time for



peaceful walks along the banks of the Severn River and in the beauty of the Cotswolds.

Join a Choir

There is a place for everyone in St. James's Music program. There are no auditions, everyone is welcome. Please call the Music Office (ext. 323) to discuss which ensemble is right for you.

Cherub Choir (starts September 14)

- for children grades K-1-2
- rehearses on Wednesdays, 4:00-4:50 p.m.
- sings once each month at 9:00 a.m. services

Children's Choir (starts September 14)

- for children grades 3-4-5
- rehearses on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- sings once each month at 9:00 a.m. services

Youth Choir (starts September 18)

- for young people grades 6-12
- rehearses Sundays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- sings once each month at 11:15 a.m. services

West Gallery Choir (starts September 7)

- for adults who want to sing music in a variety of musical styles and want to gain a foundation in music and choral technique
- rehearses Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- sings at 9:00 a.m. services

Parish Choir (starts September 8)

- for more experienced singers who want to sing a wide range of choral repertoire in the Anglican tradition
- rehearses Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- sings at 11:15 a.m. services

Guitar Ensemble (starts September 7)

- for string players of all kinds
- rehearses Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m.
- plays at 9:00 a.m. services

Music at St. James's This Fall

September 18 5:00 p.m.	Evensong Parish Choir
October 2 9:00 a.m.	St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals Cherub Choir and Children's Choir
October 9 9:00 a.m.	Bluegrass Mass West Gallery Choir and Guitar Ensemble with guests
November 20 11:15 a.m.	Choral Eucharist Parish Choir
November 24 10:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Festival Holy Eucharist, Parish Choir with Brass
December 4 5:00 p.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols West Gallery Choir and Youth Choir



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

What Does Faith At Home Look Like?

In Mark 8:22-26, we hear the story of Jesus healing a blind man. Instead of healing him in front of a crowd of people, Jesus walks the blind man outside of the village before he restores his vision – completely out of sight of the villagers. This way, Jesus not only heals the man's eyes – he also empowers him. He is now able to walk away as a disciple and share the Good News.

In our culture of independence, the Church preaches the counter-cultural message of interdependence, to remind us of our need for each other's gifts. This valuing of each other contributes to our respecting each other's dignity, and shows that Christ is found in the midst of community.

This basic principle of the church goes hand in hand with another: each and every one of the baptized should be empowered for their particular ministry. This is a central tenet of Christian formation. Christian formation involves all different kinds of education, from worship and prayer, to Bible study, to mission – all with the aim of forming and empowering Christ's disciples.

One of the most important tasks of St. James's is to empower us to take responsibility for our daily faith life. Our strategic plan names this: "[To provide] resources and guidance to allow families, groups, and individuals to create their own home-based prayer, study and worship disciplines."

For this, we must ask ourselves: What does faith at home look like? How can

St. James's support and foster us as disciples so we are empowered to pray, study and reflect on our faith at home, in our daily lives, across ages and life stages?

This year I invite you to take advantage of the classes, retreats, and other educational resources we've planned with this very question in mind. Ask the clergy or laity for guidance or resources too – we walk together in this earthly pilgrimage. With your help, I'm compiling a list of faith and spirituality resources for our website, so anyone can access at any time suggestions for websites, blogs, and books on topics from daily prayer to navigating major life events (please email me resources you have found helpful!).

Above all else, simply go for it! The important thing is to start somewhere. The Holy Spirit can always correct us and lead us anew as we go. Trappist monk Thomas Merton prayed,

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

With Christ's working through us, may we grow as disciples and be empowered in our faith lives – together and at home!

Grace and peace,

Hilary



*The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Assistant Rector*

Empower Us for the Work of Ministry

Last year, we opened our first ever Servant Sunday with the words of one of my favorite hymns, number 528 in the Hymnal 1982. I'm partial to it not only because the hymn's author, The Rt. Rev. Jeffery Rowthorn, was one of my favorite professors at Yale, but also because it so beautifully sums up what Jesus asks of each of his followers.

As our voices came together to sing these verses last September, I got chills. We had more than 500 Doers of all ages gathered in a gymnasium, ready to practice what we preach, ready to live out what we had just sung out. As the morning got moving, it really became apparent that the Spirit was at work in us. We ended up packing over 20,000 meals for children and families in Zambia, and we did it together. It was a beautiful thing. That's why we're going to try it again this year, albeit a bit differently. You can read all about the new plan for Servant Sunday in the cover article of this issue of the Chimes.

I hope each of you will consider signing up for one of the many servant ministry opportunities happening on the morning of September 11, or come up with your own way to serve others. I can't think of a better way to begin our new program year, especially in this time of transition. Additionally, I am struck that Servant Sunday will be a powerfully appropriate way to acknowledge the 15th anniversary of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks. As people of faith, we have each

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;

with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community;

with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."

Let your priests, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that world around us share your children's liberty;

with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."

Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;

with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."

Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;

with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

been called by God to live abundantly rather than fearfully. And we have been empowered by the Spirit's gifts for the work of ministry. So let's get to work!

Faithfully,

Carmen



*Mary Beth Abplanalp,
Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry*

Acolytes have more fun!

I became an acolyte in sixth grade and can still remember my first Sunday. The acolyte closet, just off the parish hall, was full of robes and belts I had no clue how to tie properly. I was a banner bearer and wore a red cassock and white cotta, fortunately belt-free. We stood in the narthex just outside the doors into the sanctuary listening to the prelude, awaiting the opening hymn. As we processed down the aisle, it occurred to me that I no longer just “go to church.” I realized “I am the church.”

You see, the word acolyte is derived from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning “attendant” or “one who serves.” God calls each of us to serve using the gifts we have been given to help build the kingdom of God here on earth. This looks different for all of us, but for many young people, becoming an acolyte is often a great first step toward discovering our gifts and serving God.

For over two thousand years, acolytes have been at the heart of worship services. Sharon Ely Pearson explains, “The original purpose was to prepare young men for the priesthood. Their duties included lighting and extinguishing candles, carrying candles in procession, taking charge of the alms basin (offering bowl), helping the priest prepare for the Eucharist, and generally fetching and carrying. Today we see acolytes (male



and female) dressed in robes of red or white, quietly carrying torches, crosses, thuribles, alms basins and cruets. A vital part of worship, they blend into the background helping our liturgies flow smoothly. Whether you are a young person, an adult, or one who oversees the training of acolytes, it is a privilege to serve at God’s altar.”

Being an acolyte is indeed a privilege and way more fun than worshipping in the congregation! Acolytes have a unique vantage point, sitting high up near the altar, and may witness the occasional mishaps during the worship service, like a dropped communion wafer or over-

filled chalice of wine. Through these unexpected and often hilarious moments, as the clergy try to gracefully recover unnoticed by the congregation, the Holy Spirit draws acolytes deeper into Christian community.

More than ever before, young people are desperate for community, belonging, and a sense of purpose. Being an acolyte is a wonderful way to exercise our faith and discover that all of us are the church and God is calling us to serve.

Love ya! Mean it!

Mary Beth



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

A Recipe for a Fun Vacation Bible School

Set out

- 100 (or more) inflatable beach balls
- 45 energetic campers
- 22 enthusiastic lifeguards
- 15 surfboards
- 10 catchy songs
- 4 praying clergy
- 3 palm trees
- lots of parent volunteers

AND

- 1 snow cone machine



Step #1

Thoroughly spread beach balls, campers, and lifeguards around the Michaux House.

Step #2

Mix in surfboards and catchy songs (and dance moves too) until well blended.

Step #3

Expect a bit of joyful chaos.

Step #4

Add a liberal dose of praying clergy to the mix daily.

Step #5

Sprinkle in crafts and games until smiles appear.

Step #6

Finally add tasty and refreshing snow cones to top it off.

Step #7

Wait 360 days and repeat steps 1-6.

Service – VBS and beyond

Another fun activity that the children participated in at VBS was the collection and tallying of donations for the St. James's Children's Center. Each day we announced the number of donations of Kleenex, hand sanitizer, wipes, and Ziploc bags. At the end of the week more than one hundred items were presented to Debbie Lickey, Executive Director, and Pat Caine, Program Manager, at the St. James's Children's Center.

Service is such an integral part of our lives at St. James's and will be incorporated into our Christian education programs all year. From creating cards for those in need, to decorating tablecloths for our CARITAS guests, and collecting coins to donate to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, the children of St. James's will be "doers." If you have

ideas for service projects or would like to get involved supporting our children in this way please let me know. Together we will "serve one another humbly in love" Galatians 5:13.

Blessings,

Becky

A Busy Summer, b



In June, three groups of summer missionaries joined together for a blessing: the Richmond team, the senior youth team and the junior youth mini-mission team.



The junior youth mini-mission gleaned collard greens from the fields in Mt. Olive, NC, with the Harvest of Hope agency.



project:HOMES and Virginia Supportive Housing clients benefitted from the sweat of our Richmond mission team.



Senior high missionaries worked for Hurley Community Development, a non-profit in Appalachia in the southwest coal country of Virginia.



We helped Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper introduce his new book Mapping Your Adventure at a book signing in June.

Both Outside and In



Left: Over 800 parishioners said farewell to the Holleriths in a Sunday morning service and reception on June 26.



Right: Founders Sunday gave us a chance to recall our roots and celebrate the banner that Vienna Cobb Anderson needle-pointed depicting the chapel stained glass window.



During July, Mark and Virginia Whitmire led the choir in a week-long residency at historic Worcester Cathedral in the UK where they sang six Evensong services as well as Sunday Eucharist.



Brother Leo Campos along with Rev. Hilary Streever led a half day retreat at Richmond Hill on intentional spirituality for eighteen.



The VBS Surf Shack was rocking, dude, with cheers, lifeguards and action over five days in June.

The Sunday Brunch cooking team wowed the crowd in July and August with generous and nutritious meals.



Service



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Start Doing!

START DOING with just the click of the red button at the very top of the church website (www.doers.org). You will find a full array of ministry opportunities and the ability to get connected to the ministry teams of your choice.

In addition, the Parish Resource Guide (mailed to each family) gives a detailed account of all ministry teams and leaders. As always, if I can help you discern your ministry in any area of interest or can answer any questions, please contact me at nwarman@doers.org and 355-1779 ext. 333.

The beginning of a new program year is just around the corner and with it comes the opportunity to consider your place and importance in the life and ministry of St. James's and in the world. We are Doers of the Word. Doers Do! Doers Serve! Consider these recent examples of doing with love:

Cynthia with medical problems, including diabetes was overjoyed with the abundance of fresh veggies and fruits. Gladys with physical disabilities and limited mobility was so happy to have her apartment cleaned and organized. Mary, overcome with financial worries was so appreciative of guidance from her financial mentor. Church members were delighted to have their fence mended. Cathy and her son who had been sleeping on the floor were greatly relieved to have a new bed.

Church families receiving meals at times of crisis were uplifted. Those residing in the homeless respite were appreciative of the new blankets and shelter residents were delighted with home cooked meatloaf. Doers Do and you did, and it made a difference in the lives of so many!

PAUSE to consider what your church life means to you:

How is God calling you to serve others? What are your unique gifts and talents?

What feeds your soul? How will your active participation in ministry be of benefit to you? Will it enrich others?

PRAY to ask God for guidance and discernment and listen for His response: What ministries in the church, in the community, in your family, at your work, and on the street are you called to do in Christ's name? How does God want you to serve as the hands and feet of Christ? Will you make a difference-or not?

Pause, Pray, and Hit that Red Button!

Nancy Warman

Servant Ministry NOTES

CARITAS Intake: October 15- December 16. Mark your calendar and watch for details!

DAN (Doers Action Network) Church members helping church members! This team of volunteers serve on an "on-call" basis to provide periodic support and assistance to church member friends. Support services may include such things as shoveling snow, changing light bulbs, minor plumbing, hanging pictures, and short-term yard work. This team serves those who are members of our St. James's church family and particularly those who are financially or physically unable to take

care of these needs. If you would like to join our team or if you need assistance, please contact lay leader Harry Warner at hhwarner@msn.com or 357-8157.

Bellevue School "Lunch Buddy" Ministry begins in October. Doer volunteers meet twice a month to visit at lunch time with kindergarten or first grade students. Students eat lunch and enjoy special activities provided by volunteers. Fun for all! Contact Lay Leader Paulette Pullen at pearlpullen@comcast.net or 282-0030 for details.

Doers Doing in the Community is a team ministry for those who like to serve with fellow doers and who love serving

in the community. This outreach team responds to needs of our community agencies that serve homeless and low-income people. Projects can include preparing and sharing a meal for shelter residents, painting and cleaning a room for new residents, organizing a shelter clothes closet and planning activities for agency children. Details for specific events will be forthcoming. If interested in joining this team, please contact lay leaders Judy Philpott at philpott3@yahoo.com or 833-6464 and Mary Slaughter at maryslaughter4@msn.com or 353-1405.

SERVANT *continued from cover*

Carpentry in Holy Spaces (on campus)

40 Doers needed, kids 5-12 are welcome with an adult

Brightening the Catacombs (Parish House basement)

36 Doers needed, kids 8-12 are welcome with an adult

Liberation Family Services (1201 Hull St.)

8 Doers needed

Polishing Silver and Brass Worship Items

12 Doers needed, this ministry is for adults

Building Tables for CARITAS (Michaux House basement)

20 Doers needed, kids 7-12 welcome with an adult

Home Again Family Shelter (2 E. Main)

10 Doers needed, kids age 6+ are welcome with an adult

Home Again Men's Shelter (11 West Grace)

10 Doers needed, kids age 6+ are welcome with an adult

Stewards of the Earth (either neighborhood or Byrd Park)

25 Doers needed for each location, kids age 5+ are welcome with an adult

Helping Hands for Little Hands at the Children's Center (Gibson Hall)

30 Doers needed, kids 8-12 are welcome with an adult

Hymn Sing at the Virginia Home (1101 Hampton Str. near Byrd Park)

40 Doers needed, kids of all ages are welcome with by an adult

There may be others and some will certainly be open on the day of the event for walk-up registrations. You are also welcome to come up with your own way to serve your community on Servant Sunday. The important thing is to be a Doer of the Word in some way.

Servant Sunday Committee

Kendal Sibley, Chair, Margaret Bloor, Carmen Germino, Russell Lawson, Lucy Meade, Becky Page, Matt Presson, Cheryl Redmond, Nancy Warman, Fontaine Williamson

About That Blessing

Tread lightly upon the earth,
for it is the dwelling place of God.
Deal gently with all living things,
for they are created by God.
Live simply, humbly and joyfully,
for you too are a beloved child of God.
And the blessing of God
be with you this day and forever.
Amen.

(anonymous)

Many of you have asked about the blessing I often use at the end of the Eucharist. Having found it in a Peace and Justice workbook from New Zealand and the Polynesian Islands, I have used it now for more than twenty years at regular services, weddings, funerals and in my own prayers.

The blessing grounds me. It reminds me always that the earth is not mine but God's and I am called to be a steward of the incredible gift of life here, with God in the midst of the beauty, the abundance, the diversity. Every single day, every sunrise, every sunset is different – the sunlight on the trees and river, the humidity in the air, the clouds – puffs in the bright blue sky or dark, heavy and filled with rain or snow. Every person and every creature is unique and every one created by that loving power that is beyond our understanding.

On this earth, we have everything we could possibly need if we only seek to leave it better than we found it. It is

like camping with the mindset that 'I will take out of the forest everything I brought with me, leaving no trash or garbage or trail behind' or planting new trees to replace all those downed by age, disease, storms and other changes. It is treasuring the awesome beauty of a place and wanting to share it with those we love. It is certainly to be mindful that God is with me every step and every day and that every place and experience is holy for God is in this place and in this moment and so this place and this moment are holy. It reflects the radical hospitality we learn from the way Jesus lived his life, what he taught, how he treated the individuals who came his way and how he died.

The blessing calls me to tread lightly, deal gently, live simply and humbly, be open to all the joy that life can bring, all the joy of living, of loving, of hoping, of wondering, of expecting, for God calls me beloved, even me. It reminds me that I am called to tread lightly, deal gently, live simply and humbly, be joyful not in order to be beloved of God but because I am a beloved child of God. You too, my friend, are a beloved child of God. If you ever need some help remembering, I commend this blessing.

Faithfully,



Boy Scouts Come to St. James's

Boy Scouts of America Troop 400 is now based at St. James's and notice of their meetings and hikes is posted on our website. Assistant Scoutmaster Billy Parrish (839-5285) invites all boys ages 11-17 years of age to contact him if in-



terested in joining or visiting the troop.



Giving Back and Getting Back

by Debbie Lickey

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

St. James's Children's Center is celebrating 30 years of service to the Richmond community this year. Thirty years of service in a non-profit early education center, serving our neediest population, is quite a feat and a testament to the philosophy of St. James's Church: *Be Ye Doers of the Word*.

The Children's Center has evolved over those 30 years. At this time, in addition to providing a quality educational foundation for the 65 children we serve, the Children's Center's influence is spreading through our region. Along with working to prepare each of our children for success in school and life, the Children's Center is more active in efforts to address generational poverty in our city. This action comes in many forms. I'd like to highlight four recent actions that have expanded the reach of our Center.

VCU Partnerships: We have expanded our work with the VCU School of Education. Five of their Masters program's students have interned with us this summer to work with our children and develop individual education plans for them. While helping our students, the VCU students are more prepared to enter professional teaching posts throughout Virginia and the country.

Smart Beginnings: Through the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and its Smart Beginnings Program, our

Center has been recommended as a model for other childhood programs. Smart Beginnings has suggested that other centers tour St. James's to see quality in action! Also, through Smart Beginnings, I have been asked to serve on the Early Childhood Action Council which advocates for quality early childhood opportunities for families in the highest risk areas in our city.

NAP Tax Credits: St. James's Children's Center was one of six new nonprofit organizations approved by the Virginia Department of Education to receive Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credits for 2016-2017. NAP Tax Credits are only allocated to organizations that provide scholastic

instruction or assistance to low-income students and students with disabilities. Offered through the Commonwealth of Virginia, NAP Tax Credits provide incentives for businesses and individuals to support educational programs such as St. James's. These credits will encourage new and increased support for our work. If you, or someone you know, is interested in making a donation to the Center – and receiving 65% of your donation amount as a credit on your Virginia taxes, please contact us!

Engaging Volunteers: This year, our children have been blessed by over 60 volunteers who have chosen to 'give back' to the community through their service. We have volunteers creating specialized reading and learning activities, reading to children, acting as homework buddies, teaching music and yoga, bringing in science experiments and much more. These volunteers are creating a gift of experiences, time, and different perspectives for our children. However, I believe if you were to ask our volunteers about their experiences they would tell you that they not only give back, but get back as a result of their service! And there is always room for more. Please call us if you are interested in sharing time with our young-learners.



Linda Owen, a St. James's Doer, came to us as a retired librarian. She worked tirelessly to create a data base for our extensive children's library. Now teachers can easily access books that reinforce children's interests.

World Pediatric Project Brings Bless Arthur To Us

The Missions Committee is excited to announce the details of the World Pediatric Project's (WPP) child patient we have been assigned for St. James's support and sponsorship this fall.

Her name is Bless Arthur (age 13), and she is from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She has been in Richmond before, and is returning for cardiac surgery at VCU. You may remember that the WPP had actually named a designer handbag after her a few years back!

Her expected arrival date is September 11 (her birthday and our Servant Sunday) and she will be staying at the Doorways downtown with her mother. The first training for new volunteers is September 1 at St. James's from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow.



Bless Arthur returns to Richmond in September for cardiac surgery.

There will be a second training session at the WPP offices on September 14 at 5:00 p.m. Please let Barbara Robinson (bbrobinson80@hotmail.com) or Linda Rossi (lyrossi@aol.com) know if you are interested in helping.

Sacred Spaces

by Harry Moore

Valentine Hall

When we moved into Michaux House several years ago, we were greeted by a beautiful gathering space, fittingly named Valentine Hall in honor of Henry and Peggy Valentine. With this month's Chimes theme about Servant Sunday, it could not be more appropriate to recognize this holiest of spaces.

Thinking back on the continuous use it receives, we have had countless Wednesday night dinners, wedding receptions, greetings and farewells. We've raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for missions during Mardi



Gras Auctions. There have been Vacation Bible Schools, Vestry meetings, Bible Studies, CARITAS shelter weeks, Jazz Masses, Servant Sundays, and countless other gatherings. It's used a LOT, and you have your own memories of being in this great room.

Sitting in a recent Forum, I began to think about Valentine Hall and how lucky we are to have it. It is a beautiful Sacred Space, and God is present there on every occasion.

Earthly Matters

by Eva Clarke
Stewards of the Earth Committee

Healthy Yards

We owe our organic yard to chickens. Prior to owning pet hens, we used pesticides on our lawn and garden in hopes of attaining an immaculate lawn. Lured by labels promising to "kill on contact," and "eliminate all bugs" we attacked with a vengeance. We hired a lawn care company to spray even more unpronounceable chemicals on a monthly basis, unconcerned by their warning to "keep children and pets off the grass for several hours until the product dried."

Since garden pesticides and weed killers are widely available in garden centers, hardware stores and grocery stores, we assumed they were safe. We sprayed to kill mosquitoes, aphids, and more unintentionally losing beneficial insects like ladybugs, fireflies, spiders, butterflies and bees.

Our ignorance ended once Sadie, Wilma, Elsie, Boogie and Gretchen clucked their way into our hearts. While researching how to raise chickens, we learned that pesticides are extremely hazardous to birds because they eat grass and bugs. Additionally, pesticides contribute to storm water waste, which flows directly into the James River, polluting our source of drinking water. Once fully aware of the hazards pesticides pose to humans, domestic animals, birds, fish and other wildlife, we changed our lawn care regimen. Hand-weeding, horticultural oils, vinegar and homemade sprays became our weapons of choice against garden invaders.

Like so many other homeowners, we'd placed a higher premium on golf-course looking grass over protecting the environment. Thanks to our feathered-friends, we changed our gardening practices. Even if you are hen-less, take a moment to consider what you are putting on your garden. All of God's creatures, down to the tiniest ladybug, will thank you.

Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development*

More than Loaves and Fish

An artist friend recently shared a secular interpretation of the parable of the loaves and fish. In the scripture, at the end of the day Jesus instructs his disciples to show him the available food for the assembled thousands. They present five loaves and two fish, which he breaks and blesses. Jesus directs his disciples to divide the people in groups of 50 and share the food. What happens next, in my friend's account, is that the people see Jesus' blessing of the food, and notice that there is not enough to go around.

My friend's reasoning continues: Following Jesus into the country away from their homes, these people likely brought some provisions with them. As they witnessed the blessing and the intention to share, they brought out what they could contribute, and all were fed with plenty left over.

Although a slight deviation from our interpretation, I can see how my friend would arrive at this version. What he leaves out, however, is the miraculous grace of God assuring that all would be fed.

We are familiar with blessing and sharing at St. James's, as well as dividing into groups to lead us forward. We prayed for the Strategic Planning Committee, and are grateful that they listened to us and compiled our next five-year plan to further grow our mis-



sion, especially in this time of transition. We have blessed our Search Committee as they begin the process of faithfully discerning our next rector.

We have other groups to lead us this fall. Five Peer-to-Peer teams have formed to support annual giving, with the goal of engaging more families in faithful giving to assure the ongoing mission of our church. This may surprise you, but much like those people who followed Jesus into the country, many gifts to St. James's are modest. What is important is that everyone contributes what they can, to assure that we can continue to build God's Kingdom here on earth. On September 18 we will bless these leaders and thank them for their joyful work.

The Feast of St. James's on October 26 is a celebration of our parish and the conclusion of the annual giving season. Mark your calendars and make sure your pledge card has been mailed or put into the collection plate. And as always, thank you for joyfully sharing God's gifts!

Peace and abundant blessings,

Suzanne

The Interview

The Chimes asked Thom Blair, our interim rector, to talk with us a while about his approach and expectations.

Chimes: What are you most looking forward to as you live into your new role for St. James's?

TB: Well, I suppose I most look forward to getting to know the people of St. James's better than I know them now. Some folks I know a little bit from the Sunday morning class I've been teaching downstairs for a couple of years now. But there are a whole lot of folk here I scarcely know at all. And also, I probably should say that I do seriously look forward to the satisfaction we'll all feel when the interim is over, and that part of the work is done, and the fine, new rector arrives to find a parish family well prepared and eager to start a whole new stage of life together.

Chimes: What have you learned from our Transition committee and Vestry over the process of talking about serving as our interim rector?

TB: You can't talk to any of these people without getting the sense that St. James's has some really talented and dedicated souls working to see us through this interim season. They are not inclined to passivity. They seem determined to press ahead. And more, I think all the work that's been done on the long range plan for St. James's has given these lay leaders a pretty clear sense about the direction in which the parish is pointed. They know what they're aiming for. And usually that means that there's a good chance the target's going to get hit. And finally, I must say that these are kind and thoughtful people. As I get older, kindness and thoughtfulness are attributes I value more and more. So, it was very nice to see these two things so plainly evident in the faces of these good people.

Chimes: What do you think is the most exciting opportunity in your call to



Thom Blair, Jr.

be our interim rector?

TB: There's a lot to be excited about in this interim time. From a selfish point of view, I am glad to get yet another chance to contribute something to the life of another vibrant congregation. I had pretty much decided, until this possibility appeared, that I had mostly given what there was in me to give when it came to leading a parish family. But, after talking to Randy and to Peggy and the Transition group, things have come to look differently. So, that is exciting. And I do look forward to working with such a remarkable, proficient parish staff. They cover so many bases so well. It will be good to be a part of a team like this.

Chimes: Do you have any specific expectations about your first months in the interim role, things you expect to be doing or experiencing?

TB: There are some things I most definitely expect to be doing in the next few months. And one of them is trying like crazy to learn the names of a lot of new people. At my age, that's not so easy. But it's important, so I'll be trying hard on that one. And also, I expect that my learning curve is going to be steep when it comes to figuring out how all the various programs and ministries here fit together, and how they actually work. St. James's is a parish with a lot of moving parts and helping those parts continue to move as gracefully as they have been moving is going to be

a big challenge for me. And finally, I expect to keep on doing the Bible Study downstairs on Sunday mornings. That's something I've liked doing these past two years and I'd like to keep that up if I can.

Chimes: What do you see as the most important role for any interim rector?

TB: It seems to me that the real job of any interim is to prepare the way for whoever is coming to be the next rector. And the success of an interim can be judged pretty well by how prepared the parish family is. Sometimes, when the parish has fallen on bad times and gotten wounded or ornery, the job of an interim is to make the changes that need to be made in order for the new rector to inherit, as it were, a healthy congregation. Just as a patient may sometimes need major surgery, so also sometimes parish families need major surgery. But here at St. James's, I think the interim's job is just to acknowledge the deep running health of this parish, do whatever is necessary to preserve this health, and try to deliver the parish into the hands of the new rector with all that health still intact, all that life still pulsing, all that goodness still bearing good fruit. If we can do even better than that, it would be wonderful for sure.



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