



Fall Chimes



Sept.- Nov. 2017

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.6, No.4

John McCard Unanimous Choice As New Rector

What's inside...



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One vote was all it took, said Rector Search Committee Chair Charlie Whitaker and Senior Warden Peggy Crowley.

All the research the committee did among the parish, explained Charlie, indicated we were looking for a “warm and approachable pastor, a strong preacher, a strong leader, all packaged up in a spiritually-grounded servant of Christ.”

“The Holy Spirit led us to John and he impressed us, so much so that the committee only took one vote and it was unanimous,” he continued.

The vestry met on June 24 to hear the Rector Search Committee’s recommendation and it also only took one vote, a unanimous one, to call John McCard, said Peggy.

John comes to St. James’s after thirteen years as rector of St. Martin in the Fields Church in Atlanta. He also was President and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of St. Martin’s Episcopal School in Atlanta, which serves students from pre-K to 8th grade.

John grew up in Macon, Georgia attending Christ Episcopal Church.

“I do not remember a time when I didn’t feel called to be a priest, and I was blessed in my life to have wonderful priests from Macon to Concord to Paris to New York City that were role models for me,” he stated.

His father served on vestry and as a senior warden and his mother was

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Find us online all the time:





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

We had a wonderful summer of music at St. James's. On May 28 we presented our bi-annual Memorial Concert featuring music of Bach and Fauré and the presentation of roses to our veterans by members of the Children's Choir.



Our annual Welcome Summer Recital Series began June 7 with an organ recital by organist Bruce Stevens. Bruce was St. James's organist from 1984 until 1995 and his long-awaited return was a resounding success.



On Friday, June 9, we presented 'Homegrown' – a concert designed to showcase many of the musicians who play and sing for us most Sunday mornings throughout the fall and spring. More than a dozen singers performed, including some rising young stars. Lots of cans of food were brought and donated to Virginia Food Bank.



Later in June St. James's was one of the venues for the Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists and we greeted attendees with an Even-song on June 25 sung by the St. James's Chamber Ensemble.



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 13)

- 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 13)

- 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 10)

- 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 6)

- 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 7)

- 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 6)

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



From the Rector's Desk

In due season

*The Rev. Dr. John McCard,
Rector*

When I reflect upon the spiritual journey I have been on with your search committee and vestry these past few months, I continue to be amazed at the unexpected ways that God works in our lives. I knew very little about St. James's until I received a phone call from a member of your search committee a few months ago. Since that fateful call, it has been a privilege for me to learn more about the ministry, the history of your fine parish, and the faithful leadership of your previous rector, The Very Reverend Randy Hollerith.

When the vestry called me to serve as your 14th rector, I was humbled and bit overwhelmed at the prospect of following in the footsteps of so many fine clergy and lay leaders. At yet despite my initial apprehension, the entire McCard family – Cynthia, Florrie, Clementine, Matilda and I – are excited about joining the church family of St. James's. As your newly called rector, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and join with the other lay leaders and staff, and do all I can to continue the St. James's tradition of being a fellow doer of the word.

While we were understandably anxious to make the move to Richmond and St. James's, there was much to do in Atlanta as we began the difficult process of saying goodbye to many good friends at St. Martin's and our local community. Now that we have made the move to Richmond, I will start my ministry as your rector around Labor Day.

Please know that our prayers are with all of you. We are looking forward to learning more about the history of St.

James's, getting to know our new church family, and sharing in the ministry that God has entrusted to our care. As St. Paul writes in Galatians, *And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.*

With every good blessing, I am
Yours in Christ,

Fall through Spring Hours

until Memorial Day

Worship

Sunday

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

Office

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

Below: Charlie Whitaker and Laura McCoy of the Rector Search Committee with John McCard and Senior Warden Peggy Crowley in the Michaux House.





*The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Associate Rector*

Lessons in Faith from the Trenches of New Parenthood

We took Baby Chris on his first boat ride this summer on North Carolina's Pamlico River. He looked adorable in his infant-sized life jacket and sun hat and he tolerated the wind and the heat remarkably well, until near the end. We were almost back to dry land when he decided he'd had enough. As the boat's motor got slower and softer upon our approach to the dock, Chris's cries got faster and louder. Our usually calm and happy baby was NOT HAPPY. We tried all of our usual tricks, but nothing helped. He wanted out of that hot, restrictive life jacket, but we could not take it off of him until we were safely on the shore. The very thing protecting him was the very same thing driving him crazy, and his mean parents refused to free him of it. It broke my heart to see him so worked up, but we just had to let him express his dissatisfaction with the situation in his own way. Eventually he calmed down again and fell asleep in my arms.

I couldn't help but laugh when I realized the life jacket is like God's love. It encases us and ensures our survival, but it comes at a cost to our comfort. Sometimes we find ourselves in hazardous situations, and God's love saves us. But as disciples of Jesus, we know we will also sometimes feel discomfort if we take God's love seriously. It may seem as though God is mean, and we may need to wait for a while, but we must strive to trust that God has given us this life

jacket of love to keep us buoyed amid the waves and tides of this turbulent ride we call life.

In the past six months since Chris was born, there have been so many moments when Matt and I have marveled over the new understandings that parenthood has taught us about faith. Sometimes Chris will get fussy when he's hungry. We will go to the kitchen to prepare a bottle for him, and while we are just in the next room, it probably feels like he is all alone in the world. We'll call to him, but he can't hear us over his own noise. Meanwhile, it takes time to warm up frozen milk and put it in a bottle. We are actively working to respond to his needs, but to him it feels as if he has been abandoned.

Isn't it the same with us and God? I try to remember this now in my own prayer life. It may seem as though God is far away and has not heard my hopes

and desires. Meanwhile, God may be trying to get me to quiet down enough to listen and be patient while God works to respond to my needs.

I have no doubt that life with Chris will continue to yield new insights into the mystery that is life with Christ. I'd love to hear your stories too, whether or not you have kids. Our God is a God of relationships, and so it makes perfect sense that we learn more about God through our human relationships. How have your closest relationships revealed new insights about God to you?

Carmen

Faithfully,





*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

Ah, fall.

Ah, fall. The days are shortening. Soon we'll be putting away the grill and pulling out the fire pit. Our eyes will be turned to the changing colors of the trees. And our programming for the new year will begin.

The above quote of Jesus (quoting Deuteronomy) speaks to the importance of giving God our all, in a holistic manner. The Judeo-Christian concept of the individual considers the self as a whole, rather than as a collection of parts. What we learn academically with the mind affects our hearts; what we learn experientially with bodies affects the mind and soul; and so on.

While the personal relationship with God is important, it is always to be held

and developed in the larger context of the community of faith. The "you" in the verse above, like so often in the Bible, is the plural "you." Christian formation happens in community. Thinking and talking with others about our experiences of God or a passage of scripture or a saint's life or the verse of a hymn can further open that object so that it reveals more of God's mystery. We learn more about God, the world, and even our personal selves when we are in community with each other.

I hope you'll take a good look at the Fall Study Guide that is in your mail. There you'll find upcoming classes for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, three retreats, and two field trips.

Thanks to the Adult Formation Committee, staff, and clergy, who have been hard at work organizing this schedule the past few months!

Grace and peace,

Hilary

Fall Parish Retreat October 20-22, 2017 at Shrine Mont. Registration Deadline: October 1.

Dare to Say Yes: Choosing Between What's Good and What's Best



With Guest Speaker Jerusalem Greer

Do you ever feel like your life is rushing by so fast that you are actually missing it? Do you find that you are over-committed, overextended, and overtired? Do you ever just want to hit the pause button and take a moment to catch your breath?

Or maybe you feel paralyzed by all the choices facing you right now, unable to decide which direction to go in your life?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then the Parish Retreat is for you. Join us for weekend of pressing pause, breathing in God's goodness, and daring to say "Yes" to the spiritual practice of going slow, as writer and speaker Jerusalem Greer helps us all discover how we can begin to choose between what is good and what is actually best for the

current season of our lives, learning to map out a path from over-committed to intentionally thriving.

Come for fellowship, learning, and worship together at this special place. Our program will be appropriate for all ages, with free childcare for children under 4. In addition to being an Episcopal Family Minister, Jerusalem is also a writer, and speaker, and is the author of *At Home in this Life: Finding Peace at the Crossroads of Unraveled Dreams and Beautiful Surprises*. She lives with her husband and two teenage sons in Arkansas, on a small hobby farm. As a family they are attempting to live a slower version of the modern life. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. She writes about all of this and more at www.jerusalemgreer.com.

Registration is open until October 1. Adults \$200 and Youth and children \$85. Children under 4 free. Register at <http://www.doers.org/2017-parish-retreat>.

Ministry

... for Youth and Young Adults



Mary Beth Abplanalp,
Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry

Mission is at the Heart

Mission is at the very heart of who we are as Christians. It is through mission that we understand the way in which God calls each one of us individually and communally to live and act in this world. Attitudes and practices related to mission and service have changed considerably in recent years, shifting away from “doing for” toward “being with.” Be forewarned: “doing for” and “being with” call for a bigger personal commitment than simply doing a job for someone. But they also lead to richer, more rewarding experiences.

Twenty-one middle and high school youth from St. James’s and their adult leaders had transformational mission experiences this summer on the Mini-Mission to Christchurch, VA and the Appalachia Youth Mission. Thank you for your faithful (and fun) service with our neighbors!

Love ya! Mean it!

Mary Beth





Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

... for Children

Prayers for Starting

As we begin another school year I invite you to offer these prayers for all students and teachers.

A Prayer for Our Students

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of education in every form.

As our children prepare to start a new year, may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide, and may hope be their compass toward a bright future. We pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to love well.

May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way they don't have to face it alone.

Amen.

A Prayer for Our Teachers

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing teachers who have given their lives to serve our children.

As they prepare for the new school year fill them with the strength to lead, grace to guide, and hope to thrive in their classroom.

Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour into the next generation through education.

Amen.

Sunday School Registration

September 17 is the first day of Sunday school for children age 2 through 5th grade. If you have not already completed your Sunday school registration, please do so at your earliest convenience. The form is available on our website www.doers.org.

Blessings,

Becky

Join me in welcoming those who received the sacrament of baptism at St. James's in July and August.

Kate Betsy, daughter of Katherine & Parker Agelasto,

Vivian Eleanor, daughter of Jimmy and Laura (Cooper) Cheng, granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper

Catherine Delaney, daughter of Tucker & Wyatt Deal

Ellen Branch and Sutton Armistead, daughter and son of Anne Bev & Burton Fuller

Henry Matthew, son of Molly-Armine & Ryan Holston

Thomas D'Arcy, son of Anne & Preston Lloyd

Mary Frances, daughter of Margaret Ann & Nick Mazzenga

Malcolm "Mac" Scott, son of Rebecca & Eric McKay

Carolina Reeves, daughter of Katie & Whit Morris

Helen "Nellie" Ware, daughter of Lucy & John Tillou



Malcolm "Mac" Vilas, son of Margaret & Bradley Wesimuller

Lucille "Lucy" Margaret, daughter of Rachel & Steve Williard

A Summer of Fond Goodby



The confirmation banquet preceded the confirming of m Shannon Johnston during his visit on May 21.



Missions proceeded all summer, (clockwise from upper left) in Richmond, Honduras, the Northern Neck and Hurley, Virginia.



Memorable musical services and celebrations included (clockwise from upper left) the Children's and Cherub Choir Cantata, Memorial Concert, Founders Sunday Jazz Mass with the John Winn Band and a visit by pianists David and Christine Hagan for the Summer Recital Series.



Yes and Enthusiastic Hellos



More than 30 youth by Bishop



ACTS Chair Margie Gray chats with a parishioner after our successful month long collection in the ACTS House.



(Above) Our farewell to the beloved Reverend Caroline Smith Parkinson included a portrait to remember us by and a special choral chant.



(Above) Children's Center Sunday in April brought many of the students and teachers to the sanctuary to join Mark Whitmire in a song.



About 40 Happy Camper children and almost as many camp counselors had "S'Mores Jesus" at the 2017 Vacation Bible School in June.

(Below) The first Young Adults Retreat was held at the Woodson's home in Weems on a beautiful weekend in May, with oysters, fellowship and worship.





Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Celebrate Ministry Together!

One and all are invited and encouraged to attend our annual DOER ministry celebration! Sunday, September 24 is the date when we will all gather in Valentine Hall between worship services (10:15-11:15 a.m.) for an amazing morning of fun and fellowship.

Lay leaders will be on hand, as well as community leaders to talk one-on-one about ministry opportunities in the church and in the community. Come to learn more about community and world need, about in-house ministry, and about your personal ministry fit. Yummy food and drink will be part of this celebratory party and perhaps a few surprises too! Whether or not you sign up for a ministry, please come!

NEW Outreach Ministries

Help Eradicate Poverty

St. James's has been invited to be part of a faith based initiative, Circles RVA whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty in the City of Richmond. Circles RVA, LLC provides a process that empowers motivated low-income participants (leaders) to permanently move from poverty to economic stability. The "Circle" consists of volunteer Circle Allies and Resource Teams who mentor and support the Circle Leaders for the duration of their involvement in the program. The volunteers' primary aim is to expand the Circle Leaders' networks – helping them gain access

Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only

Give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to your ministry at St. James's
Almighty God, you have taught us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly before you. Make us doers of your word that throughout the world your name may be praised and your people served.

to resources, navigate bureaucracies, and leverage social relationships and networks they might not otherwise have access to – whatever is needed to help them meet their life-plan goals.

Embrace Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking

Safe Harbor is a community agency that seeks to create an environment where services and support for survivors is readily available, and healthy relationships are modeled and encouraged. Volunteers serve as mentors providing support and encouragement, and occasionally providing a meal for the residents of the shelter.

Support Residents Re-Entering Society

REAL "Recovering from Everyday Addictive Lifestyles" is the Richmond City Justice Center's (RCJC) premiere program. REAL has a purpose of reducing recidivism through ensuring residents (inmates) are prepared for re-entry into society. Volunteers provide mentoring and support as residents find their place back in society. Volunteers provide support where needed: provide a Sunday dinner family meal for those living in the REAL transitional house or drop off food during the week; serve as a financial or budget coach; serve as a mentor/friend support system; serve

as a resource advisor for real life issues such as clothing, food, transportation, identification, and employment.

CARITAS INTAKE -

October 14-December 15, 2017

Mark your calendars now and plan to provide hospitality each night (4:30-6:00pm) for CARITAS guests as they wait for a bus to take them to an overnight shelter. CARITAS staff provides intake for guests. Volunteers (2-3 each night) provide a warm welcome and oversight of our building. Information will be forthcoming regarding sign-up or contact lay leader Steve McCoy Steve.McCoy@PatientFirst.com/370-1041.

Please review our Parish Resource Guide and website (www.doers.org) for detailed information regarding new and all ministry offerings. You may sign up for ministry with a click of the "Start Doing," (red button at the top of the webpage) or you may contact me at nwarman@doers.org/355-1779 ext. 333. As always, I welcome your calls and am happy to answer questions, and help you discern your "ministry fit."

Nancy Warman

With Our Gratitude

A regular feature of the quarterly Chimes where we thank lay leaders and parishioners who have been exemplary Doers recently.

Chris Moore was recently chosen to receive the *James D. Patton Communications Award* for outstanding service to the Communications ministry of St. James's. The Communications Committee selected Chris for his many years of active service, including on the Shutterbug Squad. They said, "Chris's pictures of our 'big' services, such as the Christmas pageant, and Dylan, Bluegrass and Jazz Masses, are our best 'stock,' his resources of staged photographs from 2010 continue to appear in our publications and his photos also inspired and comprise half of the images in our brochure and book on St. James's stained glass windows. These are



clearly immense and valuable contributions, and we thank Chris for his wonderful artistry and steady work on these and other projects."

McCard, continued from cover

president of the ECW and chaired the annual Christmas Bazaar. "My parents were my earliest influences when it came to serving others in the Episcopal Church," he recalls.

After earning his undergraduate degree at Oberlin College in Ohio, he attended seminary at General Theological Seminary in New York City, receiving the Masters of Divinity degree. He also earned degrees at Nashotah House (Masters of Sacred Theology) in Wisconsin and Virginia Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry).

John tells us he met his wife, Cynthia, "at Oberlin our freshmen year and we recently celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary." Cynthia finished Oberlin Conservatory with a Bachelors in vocal performance and received her Masters from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Today she runs an artisan chocolate and baking business on Etsy, *Quelle Surprise Sweets* (<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/QuelleSurpriseSweets>).

John and Cynthia are proud parents of three daughters: Florrie (21), Clementine (18), and Matilda (14). Florrie has just completed a year of study in Rennes, France and will be returning for her senior year at Georgia College in Milledgeville. This past spring, Clementine auditioned and was admitted into the East Carolina University Music Theater program. Matilda will be starting 9th grade at Saint Mary's School in Raleigh, North Carolina, from which both of her sisters graduated.

In their spare time, John and Cynthia love attending concerts of all types of music, food festivals, museums, and scuba diving. John describes himself as an avid baseball fan, and expects to root for the Flying Squirrels and will be seeking advice on best places for hunting and fishing in Virginia.

Transitions

As things turned out, I never quite got a chance to thank you all for the encouragement and fine support you gave to me and to our staff over this past year. While interim times are not always easy, you could not have been more gracious and you could not have been more patient during the weeks and months we spent together, waiting and preparing for the day when our next rector came to be with us. I am sorry that I was not able to finish up as I had hoped, but glad that I am still alive and in this world and that the prospects for a strong and lasting recovery seem to be good.

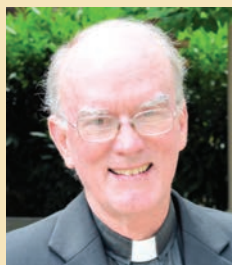
Thank you for your good wishes, your get-well cards, and the delicious suppers that you made for me. I will al-

ways remember your kindnesses, and be grateful for them.

With any luck at all, I hope to be able to return to church soon enough and take my place once again with all of you in the pews on Sunday mornings. In the meantime, I'm sure I join each of you in looking forward, with great anticipation, to John's arrival and to the beginning of a bright new chapter in the long life of this great parish. The best days lie ahead.

All my very best to each of you,,

Thom





A Growing Circle of Learning

by Debbie Lickey, Executive Director, St. James's Children's Center

The beginning of the school year always prompts me to reflect on past years to plan goals for the future. As I reflect back on the past few years at St. James's, a visual of a spiraling circle comes to mind, expanding the learning not only of our children but of our own teachers and within the community.

St. James's Children's Center has always been a place of inclusion for children with differing abilities. In the past few years our partnerships in the community have expanded to include working with 'Circle Preschool,' a therapeutic school for children who have experienced trauma. Through our partnership with Circle Preschool our teachers have had a unique opportunity to learn about 'trauma informed care,' which deepens our understanding of working with all children as they experience the varying emotions of the early childhood years, and in particular with children who are at risk. Likewise, the CPP staff and children have benefited from observing and participating in the strategies and practices implemented by

the SJCC staff that promote independence in children to follow routines, engage and interact.

A challenge of being an inclusive early childhood program is having the tools, strategies and understanding to work with children who benefit from modifications in their learning plans and environment. In order to address that challenge we have added another circle of learning in the form of hosting VCU interns who are working towards their master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Each summer we host 6 interns who observe children and then consult with teachers on additional supports designed to help our students thrive.

Again, this collaboration is mutually beneficial to both VCU and St. James's

Children's Center. Our staff, who are seasoned early childhood teachers, provide VCU interns with the opportunity to understand the differing levels of early development. The VCU students, in turn, practice and improve on their skills to optimize learning for differing

learning styles and abilities. The sum of all of this collaboration is a uniquely competent teaching staff, continued professional growth, and most importantly, the expertise to work with children as individuals on all the developmental levels.

Because of the support of St. James's church and congregation, children in our community are being provided with best practices in all areas of development and these partnerships create a model for other programs that wish to further expand their practice.

Antoinette, one of our VCU volunteers shared, "The experience of working in the St. James's Children's Center encompasses the true meaning of a professional learning community."



Sacred Spaces

by Matt Presson

The Chimes

Next time you find yourself next to the exterior of the sanctuary, take a look at how precisely and tightly the bricks still fit together, and how truly straight and clear-cut the dimensions and angles of the walls remain after 105 years of wind and water and engine exhaust and gravity.

But that's not the most impressive part. Our steeple tops out at about 180 feet above ground level, yet it was designed and built with 1912 technology. And although it is in need of some basic maintenance it is, on the whole, in incredibly excellent shape.

We are currently employing carpenters, masons and roofers to refurbish the ceilings and floors and to patch up small cracks and holes in the columns and walls and roofs, but there is really no major structural work to do. The steeple still stands straight and tall, and the steel framing and tension rods that keep it that way are still doing their job just as well as they did a century ago.

My favorite part of this project, however, involves the soul and voice of the steeple (and of course the mascot of this very publication). The Chimes have faithfully served for four generations, regularly singing out peals, chants, and hymn-tunes to the neighborhood to remind all who hear that God indeed seeks a relationship with us. Although the system underwent major restoration in the mid-1990s after the great fire, the components at the top of the tower were undamaged and major maintenance was deferred until a later date and has now come due. Bill Pugh of Top Rung Tower Chime & Organ Service has carefully and lovingly dismantled the sixteen massive tubular chimes, the sixteen



Knox Hubbard, Zack and Jennifer Reid visit the chimes prior to their removal.

giant electromagnetic strikers, and their supportive wood-and-steel frame that has dominated the lantern top of the tower for over 80 years. The whole assembly up top together weighs more than a large truck. The mechanical components of the strikers are currently in Bill's workshop in Athens, GA where they are being carefully cleaned up, adjusted, and having their coils rewound.

As you might expect, the temporary removal of the chimes superstructure has the added benefit of making the building repair work much easier, due to a greater freedom of movement up top. It also will allow for a reimagining of the design of the chimes framework itself. Instead of crowding the chimes in two rows together in the middle of the room, the new frame will sit at the perimeter in an octagon shape, allowing the chimes to hang in five of the eight archways.

Work is rolling along already on the repairs, by mid-fall the chimes work will be complete, and once again the chimes will ring out four times daily with their regular repertoire of joyful peals, introspective chants, and timeless hymns to call all who hear to come join us at church, to stop and pray, or simply to listen and sing along.

Earthly Matters

by Fontaine Williamson
Stewards of the Earth Committee

Gardening with God

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it."

Psalm 24:1

I love to dig in the dirt! "Playing" in the dirt draws me closer to God.

We live in the city, with sidewalks, tree wells and a small hill from our front porch down to the sidewalk. We have terraced this hill into three levels with landscaping timbers. Plants, rocks, sea shells and pea gravel make attractive designs in the space. Often neighbor children come by and rearrange the shells and rocks to make interesting new designs. Some neighbors have left seashells to add to our collection.

We also decorate the tree wells with seasonal flowers, horsetail reeds, (which resemble bamboo), green plants and more rocks. Did I say I love rocks?

Living in the city affords us frequent contact with our neighbors and folks walking their dogs or passing by on their way to the VMFA or Carytown.

Often when I am out front planting, weeding or sweeping, someone will pass by and tell me how pretty it looks. This seems to contribute a moment of pleasure to them. I see this as a small ministry in my neighborhood, helping others to slow down and notice something about God's creation. It benefits them as well as me, as I get some exercise and create beauty from God's dirt, plants, flowers, rocks and seashells.

I also plant a small vegetable garden in my backyard in the spring. I am able to share organic vegetables with friends and neighbors, as well as enjoying picking and eating them right away!

These are small ways that I share my love of God's creation as a ministry to others.

What might you do in your little corner of the world to spread God's love and bounty?

Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development*

Our Faithful Community of Doers

When you plan a wedding there are many joyful details to consider. The date and guest list usually come first. Also important are the many parties, flowers, menus, attendants, gifts, outfits and, of course, the ceremony. Everything is tailored to the bride and groom and their preferences as they begin a new life together.

It feels like we are preparing for this kind of major occasion at St. James's as we welcome John McCard and his family to their new home. We've prayed all year for the search committee, and now for our new Rector. In fact, we were preparing for him even before we knew there was a need for a new rector.

Led by the Holy Spirit, together we responded to the call to support our church in last year's Annual Pledge campaign. The level of participation and new pledges set a new record in the history of our church, and that was but one sign of our thriving parish. No aspect of St. James's languished this past year, from mission trips to servant ministry, from small groups to youth and adult formation, and certainly not our music or worship!

This is the time when we pause and listen to God's call to support the mission and ministries of St. James's with an annual gift. In the coming weeks, each family will receive a call from a Peer-to-Peer leader as we continue to grow our community of joyful givers.



Thank you for your faithful support of St. James's. Thank you for **responding by October 18**. The Vestry and Peer-to-Peer leaders have already pledged for the year.

Mark your calendars for **October 25** for our **Welcome Home Feast** as we welcome Cynthia and John McCard to their new church home. This event will be at St. James's. As always, we will celebrate our church family, have a wonderful meal together, celebrate the conclusion of the Annual Pledge campaign, and enjoy a message from John as well as some lively musical entertainment. Your invitation and RSVP card are in the package with this issue.

We have a lot to celebrate!

Peace and abundant blessings,

Suzanne

The Interview

The Chimes is reprinting a new stewardship brochure, “Pledge Q&As,” created by Dave Johnson and Bobbie Ukrop, Annual Giving chairs.

Each fall, every member of the congregation is again asked to make a financial commitment to the ongoing ministries of St. James’s. Collectively, our pledged support provides about 90% of our annual budget. Without our pledges, St. James’s would simply not exist.

What to consider as you determine your 2018 pledge:

Pray. Give it to God. We are members of St. James’s because of our love and commitment to Christ and the Christian life. Ask for God’s help to guide you.

Your life’s blessings. Your pledge should be given in a sense of gratitude and joy for all we have received in our lives.

Why is St. James’s special to you? Is it the liturgy, our service to others in the community and the world, our lifelong Christian education, the music, or just the pure joy of our fellowship?

Why St. James’s is not another “charity.” We all give to worthy causes and trust them to do good things. At St. James’s, we know all the great things we do are in God’s name. Your pledge to St. James’s is an affirmation of faith and your commitment to ensure the vitality of our parish, just as we have done since 1835.

Challenge yourself. In the end, pledging is about letting go of our agenda so that we can say yes to God’s agenda for us.

Every pledge matters. Some folks think that St. James’s is funded primarily by a few very generous members of the parish. This is NOT the case – and for that we are blessed. Since every pledge matters, your pledge matters.



*Dave Johnson,
Annual Giving*



*Bobbie Ukrop,
Annual Giving*

Some Questions and Answers

1. What is a pledge? It is simply a heart-felt, documented financial commitment to support our remarkable ministries in the year ahead.

2. Why not simply give as I can through the collection plate? Your pledge reinforces the importance of God and St. James’s in your life. And our pledges provide the Vestry with an estimate of expected income essential to the preparation of our annual budget. St. James’s simply cannot operate and thrive without a reasonable estimate of its financial resources.

3. Doesn’t St. James’s receive support from the Episcopal Diocese and our Endowment Fund? The church receives no financial support from the Diocese and, to the contrary, we are obliged to support the Diocese’s expenses. The St. James’s Endowment Fund provides capital support for our church physical plant and campus. For example, this year the Endowment Fund provides about 7% of our annual budget. The Endowment Fund is a very important resource for St. James’s, but the Church’s annual operations depend almost entirely upon pledges.

4. How much should I pledge? The actual amount, of course, is entirely a personal decision. But, it should be grounded in your faith, love and commitment to God’s work through St. James’s. Your pledge should not be an afterthought or casual decision. It requires reflection, prayer and priority. The Vestry has endorsed the Biblical

tithe and we urge everyone to aspire to reach that goal and to make St. James’s your primary philanthropic priority.

Proverbs 3:9 says it all: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and the first fruits of all you produce.”

5. Is my pledge confidential? Yes.

Fewer than 5 members of the parish know the actual amounts of individual pledges. Each year St. James’s publishes an alphabetical list of all who have pledged, with a provision for those who choose to remain anonymous. Included in our Annual Report, this list is intended to thank those who have pledged.

6. How can I pay my pledge? There are several convenient ways to honor your pledge:

- Make regular payments by check using the envelopes provided to all who request them;
- Use your bank’s online bill paying system and set up regular weekly, monthly or other periodic payments directly to the church;
- Use the secure electronic payment option under the GIVE tab on St. James’s website, www.doers.org;
- Use appreciated stocks or IRA payouts to pay your pledge. (If you are 70 ½ years of age, your IRA payouts should be fully tax-deductible). In either case, please alert the Suzanne Hall at shall@doers.org to ensure that your pledge payment is properly credited.

7. What if my situation changes and I cannot fulfill my pledge? We understand that life’s circumstances do change, often unexpectedly. In this case, please alert Suzanne Hall, Director of Stewardship and Development at (804) 355-1779 x335 so that our records can be amended as needed.



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REMLINDER: Please make sure the church office has your updated e-mail address and other pertinent information. Contact Anita Lisk in the church office (alisk@doers.org or 355-1779) and the leaders of your ministry teams.

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