



Spring Chimes



March - May 2017

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.6, No.2

The Lenten Wilderness

The Reverend Dr. Robert Friend

The Liturgy for Ash Wednesday (p.264 of The Book of Common Prayer) invites us into 40 days of wilderness journey, of struggle, of wrestling with what it means to be the people of God. We are exhorted to self-examination and penitence, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. It is set up to be something of an ordeal through which we travel and will emerge on the other side of the journey strengthened and in a right relationship with God.

It reminds me of the Exodus story from the Old Testament. In fact, you could say it is the Exodus story written across the pages of our personal lives. Its themes correspond to our day to day experiences. When we have the feeling of alienation, or anxiety, or fear, that keeps us from enjoying the freedom of God, we recognize on a conscious level that we are in some kind of bondage. This can lead to sin. We can either stay in bondage in our personal Egypts, or we can strike out through the wilderness just as the people of Israel did as they crossed the Red Sea into the Sinai Desert, to eventually find the Promised Land. The Israelites were in the wilderness a long time, (40 years, says the Bible, just as Lent lasts 40 days). While they were in the wilderness they got side-tracked many times. Once, while in the desert they decided to create a false God, a golden calf, thinking that would assuage their longings. We, quite easily, get

side-tracked in our own journeys toward God. Perhaps the substitutes for God that we allow control over us can assuage the pain of bondage for a little while but there is no lasting freedom or a Promised Land with a golden calf.

Some of the Israelites in the wilderness became scared and frightened by their journey. They wanted to go back to Egypt, to be back in the bondage. At least it was a bondage that they knew and had made some accommodation with. We all know people who will stay in a bad situation, battered, addicted, or some other equally unhealthy lifestyle as an emotional crutch rather than break free to healing and wholeness. After a long time of struggle in the wilderness, the people of Israel finally emerged through the Jordan River into the Promised Land as one unified people who knew who they were and knew who God was. What they experienced is a kind of wholeness that only comes from wrestling with the devils inside of us. They experienced the goodness of knowing that God was very present with them in life and no matter what problems they faced, that he would not abandon them even in the wilderness of life.

We can learn these things afresh for ourselves this Lent. I invite you to take part in our special Lenten offerings, especially the Lenten programs and retreat, and also the many special liturgical offerings. May a sincere Lenten journey bring us to the fullness of the Easter feast.

What's inside...



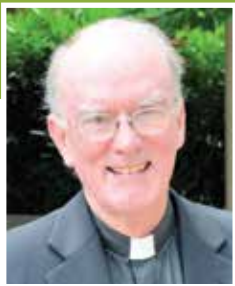
Gifts of Advent and Christmas...page 8



Friendship's Impact...
page 12

Find us online all the time:





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

From the Interim Rector's Desk

Travelling Light in Lent

There are lots of things that make life difficult for all of us who are trying to be followers of Jesus. One of those things is that, sooner or later, it's bound to come clear that we can't follow Jesus without letting go of some stuff, laying it down, leaving it behind. Some of that stuff has been precious to us for a long time. Some of that stuff has been with us such a long time that we can't even imagine a life without it. Still, if we want to follow the One who always travelled light, and keep up with him, then we too need to learn to travel light, to lay some burdens down. Lent is the season for giving things up, laying things down.

So think, for example, about fear, and the dead weight of all the fears we carry, day in and day out. Can you imagine what it would be like to live free of some of these fears, to give them up, lay them down? The fear of there not being enough. The fear that someone else will take what you have. The fear of dying. The fear that you will not measure up. The fear of people who are different. The catalogue of possibilities is long. There are lots of ways to be afraid. What would your life be like if you made up your mind that you've had enough, that you were done with living with so many fears, that you were tired of being run ragged? Lent is a good season for laying fears down, for learning to travel light.

Or think, for example, about resentments and bitter feelings that we've been carrying around with us for years, that have become somehow precious to us, so precious that we can hardly conceive of ourselves without them. How much energy does it take to keep these bitter memories alive? How many hours does it take to rehearse them, and how much energy do we give over to remembering them? How many cups of this poison do we need to drink before we make up our minds to lay the cup down? Bitter resentments are to our souls what deadly diseases are to our bodies. Lent is a good season to turn resentments loose. They make it hard to follow Him. They make it hard to keep up.

So maybe, when this Lent rolls round, we could contemplate doing something serious. We could take some time and try to figure out for real what particular burden we need to lay down and leave behind so that we can follow Him more closely. What heavy load are you carrying that's making it hard to travel light? Probably giving up chocolate is not going to do the trick.

As ever,

Thom

Lenten Study

Sunday, March 5, 12

Reconciliation in the Bible, Our Worship and in our Lives

Wednesday, March 8, 15

There and Back Again: W. H. Auden and Reconciliation in Faith

Saturday, March 11

Lenten Retreat

Sunday, March 19

Coping Skills for Busy Parents

Wednesday, March 22

REAL: Preventing Recidivism in Richmond

Sunday, March 26

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Wednesday, March 29

Medical Science meets Faith: Serving Richmond's Victims of Domestic Violence

Sunday, April 2

Sing to the Lord: Music in Worship

Wednesday, April 5

Welcoming Stranger & Neighbor with Cultural Linguistic Competence

Saturday, April 15

Stations of the Cross Family Hike on Belle Isle

Worship

Ash Wednesday, March 1

noon Ash Wednesday liturgy

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday liturgy

Palm Sunday, April 9

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

8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession at Stuart Circle

10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday liturgy

Holy Week

Monday-Wednesday, April 10-12

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday liturgy and Foot Washing

Good Friday, April 14

noon Good Friday liturgy

7:00 p.m. Good Friday liturgy

Easter Day, Sunday, April 16

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

9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist and Flowering of the Cross

11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist

Office Closed

Monday and Tuesday

April 17-18



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

Music at St. James's

West Gallery Choir sings at Washington National Cathedral



On Sunday, January 29, St. James's West Gallery Choir presented the Choral Prelude at Washington National Cathedral. Music, which was centered around the theme of light, included *O Nata lux* (MortenMauridsen), *The Transfiguration* (Sufjan Stevens), *The Word was God* (Rosephanye Powell), *My God, the Spring of all my Joys* (arr. Alice Parker), and *Light Everlasting* (Olaf Christiansen). Gregorian chant accompanied by handbells provided musical transitions. Randy and Melissa Hollerith attended.

Evensong; Saturday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church

THREE CHØIRS

Choristers from St. Paul's, St. Stephen's and St. James's join forces to perform music centered around the Feast of the Annunciation which commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, when the angel informed Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus. The Feast has been celebrated by Christians since the 5th century. Music will include the *Stabat Mater* of Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901). *Stabat Mater* is a 13th-century hymn to Mary, which portrays her suffering during Jesus' crucifixion. Its authorship is uncertain. It may have been written by the Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi (1230-1306) or possibly Pope Innocent III (1160-1216). The title comes from its first line, *Stabat Mater dolorosa*, which means "the sorrowful mother was standing."



Dylan Mass; Sunday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m.

In his message last Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis suggested that Christians fast from indifference towards others. In what



he calls the "globalization of indifference," he writes "when-ever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for

the poor. We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own." He writes, "Indifference to our neighbor and to God represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience."

Bob Dylan is not indifferent. He does not give himself the luxury of looking away from truth and injustice and, through his music, makes us look as well. In his iconic song written in 1963, he cries out, "How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?" He troubles our conscience and asks us to be mindful.

Memorial Concert; Sunday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m.

St. James's first Memorial Concert was in 2005. This year St. James's Festival Chorus and Orchestra will present the *Requiem* of Gabriel Fauré, one of the most sublime and evocative works of sacred music ever composed. A rose will be presented to each veteran present. Flags will be presented as we sing "*America the Beautiful*." We will also sing "*Eternal Father, strong to save*" and "*God of our Fathers*" accompanied by brass and timpani. At this concert we wish to honor and thank (1) our members for their past service in the United States military, (2) those who are presently serving in the United States military and (3) all the faithful departed who have served in the United States military.



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

The Seasonal Lens

I often take a step back and look at our church calendar as a lens on the stages of a Christian's soul and growth in faith. Through that lens, Advent is the times of our lives when we are waiting for Jesus – when we (most) feel the darkness of the world. Christmas is the joyful arrival of Jesus in our lives, and Epiphany a time of growth and basking in the ongoing revelation of God's gift of life and salvation to us and the whole world. In the brilliance of Christ's true light, it's not long before our souls begin to show our flaws, our faults and failings, our sins. How can we even begin to compare ourselves with God, in this cosmic light? Enter Ash Wednesday and Lent, as our souls and spirits begin to look at ourselves truthfully as we stand before Christ.

Though we are made good in God's image, we are not God. We are creatures of God moving in this three-dimensional world of time and space, and our mortal natures are all too aware of our finitude, our fallenness, our vulnerability, our pettiness, our very mortality. For whereas God is One, we so easily become divided and distant: divided within ourselves as individuals, divided against family members, divided against members of our communities, and ultimately, divided from God.

C.S. Lewis explored these kinds of divisions in his short spiritual masterpiece, The Great Divorce. In this allegory, Hell is depicted as a gray landscape where

individuals keep spreading farther and farther apart, the unrepentant sinners seeing great distances formed by the smallness of their sins. Indeed, the sinners depicted make themselves still smaller and more delicate and vulnerable by aggrandizing and latching on to the sins into which they have invested so much of themselves. The saints of this story, by contrast, are shown as giants. They have released their sins to transformative and reconciling Christ, who takes on any sized form to reach sinners. But Lewis's image of this spiritual reality is clear: the choice to let go and follow Christ is left to each individual.

"Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all." So we pray in Eucharistic Prayer A. Christ is on a mission of reconciliation, and as followers of Christ, we are called to be agents of reconciliation: within ourselves as individuals, in our parish, in our community and world – but only because Christ first seeks to reconcile us with God. It is the mission of the Church and of Christians everywhere to seek reconciliation with God and with each other.

This Lenten season, our adult formation opportunities explore reconciliation, from a theological and liturgical explo-

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

ration in a class with the Rev. Dr. Bob Friend and the Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper or on retreat with the Rev. Caroline Parkinson, to reconciliation in W. H. Auden's works of literature with the Rev. Dr. John Kerr, to reconciling the demands of busy schedules with joyful living in our families, to local needs and tools for reconciliation in our prisons, hospitals, and community conversation. There is a list of our offerings on page 11. Also, be sure to check out our Spring 2017 Study Guide for details and our announcements for reminders and updates.

Grace and peace,

Hilary



*The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Associate Rector*

There's a PK on the Way!

By the time this issue of the Chimes reaches your mailbox, Matt and I will have welcomed a new baby into our family, or we will be expecting his/her appearance any day now! So in my message to you this quarter, I want to reflect a bit on what this exciting arrival will mean for us as a parish family.

First of all, we want to thank you all for the love and support we have received over the course of my pregnancy. We were incredibly touched by the sweet baby shower organized by the Episcopal Church Women, and we couldn't believe so many of you came out to celebrate with us on that snowy and bitterly cold January morning! We were especially delighted with all of the diapers you collected for homeless guests at Housing Families First! We really felt showered with love. Special thanks to Brooke Taylor, Bobbie Smith, Newnie Rogers, and Rosie Messer who planned and organized the event, as well as to all who brought the delicious food and all who attended. So many others have sent us thoughtful notes or gifts, and we are so grateful for all of it. Your generosity is a tremendous help to us as we begin the adventure of parenthood.

We also want to extend profound thanks to the Vestry, who recently passed an updated parental leave policy for full-time staff. Because of this new policy, I will be able to spend twelve weeks on maternity leave as I recover from childbirth and bond with our new

baby. Additionally, Matt will receive 4 weeks of paternity leave. As more and more evidence shows, parental leave is essential for the health and well-being of both children and new parents. We are grateful to have a Vestry that understands the importance of parental leave. Many churches do not offer such generous policies for their employees, and we are proud that St. James's is a leader in this area. We're not surprised, though – for a church that celebrates children and young families as much as ours does, it makes perfect sense.

While I am on leave, I plan to really, truly be on leave. Maternity leave is not the same as vacation or sabbatical, but like vacation or sabbatical, it is a time to fully unplug from work. I admit that this makes me a bit sad, because I will really miss my beloved church family during those twelve weeks! However, I know that if I don't fully unplug, I won't be able to return to work with the energy and passion my ministry requires. So I won't be answering phone calls or emails during my leave, and I do not plan to attend worship at St. James's. Once the baby and I feel ready, we may take the opportunity to visit other parishes on Sunday mornings. Clergy rarely get to see how other churches approach worship, so I hope to soak up some new experiences while I am away. While I'm gone, you will be in great hands with our wonderful clergy, staff, and lay leaders. I'm grateful to the Rev. Dr. Mark

Cooper, who will step in to help cover my liturgical and pastoral duties while I'm away.

We are so excited to welcome our little one into the St. James's family, and we feel incredibly blessed to be able to share this new journey with all of you! We'll post the news on the church's Facebook page when the baby arrives. We look forward to watching our baby grow up as a part of the body of Christ in this special parish. God bless and keep you all.

Faithfully,

Carmen

Ministry

... for Youth and Young Adults



Mary Beth Abplanalp,
Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry

Why Young Adults Choose Church...

We often hear that young adults don't care about church.

Despite that negativity, our own young adults leaders offered these slices of joy when asked about the significance of church in their lives.

Because I need to hear God's voice ever more clearly now that I'm a 'grown up.'

Clare Trow

I love the community at St. James's. As someone who joined the church about 5 years ago, it's been wonderful to meet so many great people who are in a similar phase of life.

Danielle Dick

An hour in prayer and reflection helps me keep things in perspective.

Ginny Wortham

Because there is no greater joy than having my children remind me not to eat before the blessing.

Brian Bald

I find peace here among others on a similar journey.

Allan Rees

I love the young adult ministry because it allows me to be more involved in church leadership, which will hopefully encourage my children to do the same as they get older.

Randolph Trow

Now I can watch my children grow up at St. James's just as I did.

Margaret Raigins

In the busy world we live in, having a spiritual home to recharge weekly keeps me grounded.

Jeremy Berteale

Love ya! Mean it!

Mary Beth

River Retreat for Young Adults, May 6 – 7 in the Northern Neck

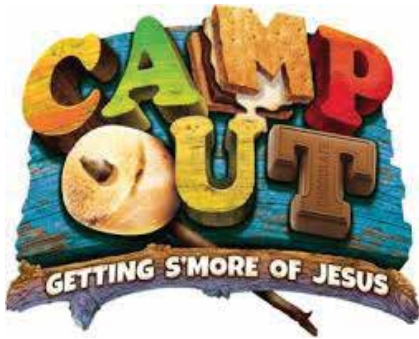
Save the Date! Young Adults in their early 20s to early 40s are invited to a new Young Adult River Retreat Saturday afternoon, May 6 to Sunday morning, May 7, 2017. Parishioners Chip and Sandy Woodson have graciously offered their river home in Weems, VA for us to enjoy a weekend by, and on, the river enjoying music, great food, and fellowship. This Kentucky Derby themed event will of course feature the horse race and will conclude with worship on the riverfront Sunday morning. A variety of lodgings options are available to accommodate your price point and comfort preferences. Check soon for updated information and online registration at www.doers.org. The River Retreat co-chairs are Brian Bald (brian.f.bald@gmail.com) and Jeremy Berteale (berteele@gmail.com).





Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

Spring and Easter are Ahead! Then, Summer!



Vacation Bible School June 19-23

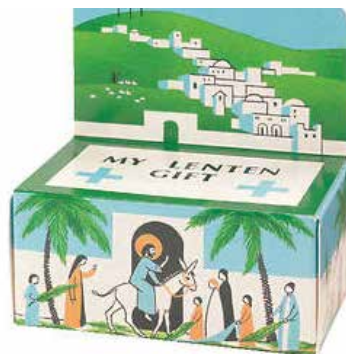
Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 19-23. We will spend a fun and active week camping out (in the Michaux House) where we will make crafts, sing songs, play games, and learn Bible stories. Registration forms are available online at www.doers.org and copies will be available in Sunday school classrooms too. VBS is open to 3 year olds (fully potty trained) through rising 3rd graders. VBS graduates and youth are invited to come for the week as counselors and earn community service hours. Please contact me at bpage@doers.org to learn more about VBS.

Lenten Mite Boxes

Each year during Lent our Sunday School children are invited to participate in a Lenten discipline which combines gratitude for the many blessings in their lives with the opportunity to help others. Mite boxes have been distributed in Sunday school classes (extras are available in the Narthex and on 2nd floor of the Michaux House) along with a calendar to guide them through the season of Lent. This year the collection will be used to purchase personal care and cleaning supplies for ACTS. On Easter morning the children will gather in the basement of the Michaux House to decorate their boxes in preparation for the flowering of the cross. We hope you and your family will join us in this wonderful St. James's Easter tradition.

Blessings,

Becky



Tasty Ministries, Hopeful



For the second year, youth cooks prepared goods for sale during the Taste.



Rev. Carmen Germino led our Advent Retreat, focused on gratitude for the many gifts God makes available to us.



The ECW Taste of St. James's once again raised some delicious profits for our active feeding ministries.



The very hospitable Beazleys hosted our fall Newcomer soiree, attended by new and seasoned St. Jamesers.



Senior youth and chaperones enjoyed the outdoors and indoors, in casual dress and in costume, during the PYM 9th-12th grade Shrine Mont Retreat.



The Central Virginia Food Bank Thanksgiving Day drive enlisted one of our active AA groups to assist staff in loading the truck with over 3000 pounds of groceries!



Meetings, Moving Services



Celebrations through Advent (clockwise) JYF, McGuire Veterans Ministry, Christmas Pageant, Children's Center and Peter Paul parties.



Dr. Carl Haywood lead the Norfolk State University Concert Choir and our adult and youth choirs in another MLK Evensong.



Youth Sunday featured all young choristers, youth in all services roles and dual preachers!





Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Servant Ministry

REDUCE POVERTY IN RICHMOND!

St. James's has been invited to be part of a faith-based team of volunteers who make up a new ministry called Circles RVA, a non-profit whose fiscal agent is Goodwill Industries. It will be one of 70-some local chapters of Circles USA that are located across the United States. The mission of Circles USA is "to inspire and equip families and communities to resolve poverty and thrive."

Its model is based on research and experience that show the solution to poverty must be personal and must be multi-dimensional in scope. The core value of this model is relational and requires a strong working relationship between "Leaders" and "Allies" for an extended period of time, generally eighteen months to two years. Circles RVA chapter will likely choose ten or fifteen community participants who will serve as "Leaders" and will be required to attend Circles leadership training with the goal to build financial, emotional, and social resources as well as economic stability. Each "Leader" will partner with trained middle to high income community volunteers ("Allies") who will support a "Leader's" efforts through networking, listening, and guidance according to one's area of expertise.

Leaders and Allies are required to attend weekly meetings for planning, support, resource sharing and

networking, and to attend a monthly "Big View" meeting which includes all Leaders and Allies in discussion of systemic barriers to escaping poverty and the strategies needed to remove them. In addition to the need for many Allies (Doers), congregations also will be needed to host meetings and provide meals.

This is a first glance at a forthcoming new ministry. It offers the opportunity for an individual to serve and/or provides an opportunity for us to create an "Allies Doers" team that would host a meeting or meal at the church. I encourage you to go online and learn more about Circles USA. Specific details will be forthcoming but for now we would like an idea of who and how many might be interested in participating. Please contact me (nwarman@doers.org) if you have questions and interest in this new ministry.

Nancy Warman

ot Hearers Only

Start Doing

START DOING with just the click of the RED BUTTON at the top of the church website (www.doers.org). Make your community a place of love and peace. Your presence, compassion, and talents can enrich the life of another and enrich our community, starting today!

Ministry Notes

LOCAL OUTREACH MISSION

June 12-16 is the date! Plan to join fellow doers for our "popular by demand" 4th annual local outreach mission! It is a week to grow in fellowship with church friends while serving a low-income senior citizen or family. Working through long time community partner project: HOMES, team members work side by side during the day on home repairs (generally 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and enjoy dinner and reflection (6-8:00 p.m.). Cost is \$100 to help cover dinner and some supplies. Also back by "popular demand" are co-leaders, Kyle Martin (construction supervisor) and Andy Smith (project organizer). Please contact Andy Smith at 310-1026 or smitha@stcva.org if you can participate!

JUST CALL DAN (DOERS ACTION NETWORK)

This in-reach ministry offers support and hands-on assistance to church members who are physically unable to do tasks and financially not able to hire workers. A team of volunteers stand "on-call" to provide periodic assistance such as changing light bulbs, shoveling snow, hanging pictures, balancing a checkbook, minor plumbing, and the like. If you would like to serve on this team or would like some hands-on help from a church friend, contact lay leader Harry Warner at 357-8157 or hhwarner@msn.com.

Lenten Studies Focus on Reconciliation

Reconciliation is our theme for our adult formation classes this season of Lent.

Sundays, March 5 and 12

“Reconciliation in the Bible, in our Worship, and in our Lives” with the Rev. Dr. Bob Friend

This two-part short course will look at the biblical basis for reconciliation in our faith, the liturgical rites for reconciliation in our Book of Common Prayer, and ways we can consider anew the process of reconciliation with God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Wednesdays, March 8 and 15

“There and Back Again: W.H. Auden and Reconciliation in Faith” with the Rev. Dr. John Kerr

W.H. Auden’s memorial in Westminster Abbey quotes these lines of his: “In the prison of his days/ Teach the free man how to praise.” As a boy, Auden was devoutly Anglican. At Oxford he lost his faith and his very celebrated poetry in the 1930s made his name the symbol for the age. “The Auden Generation” hoped that radical political change could bring about a better world. In 1939, in the USA, he returned to a mature form of Episcopalian faith and wrote some of the most profoundly Christian poetry of the twentieth century. We will look at some of Auden’s poems and listen to some set to music by Benjamin Britten.

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lenten Retreat on Reconciliation & Forgiveness with the Rev. Caroline Parkinson

Come for a day of meditations, reflection, and worship helping us focus on quieting our hearts, souls, and minds so we can “let faults be forgiven, let bonds be loosened, let offences be wiped clean,

let plans for vengeance fall through, that through the divine and human grace of Christ, the holy festival of Easter may find us all happy and innocent,” (from a sermon of Leo the Great, d. 461). Register online at bit.ly/2017LentenRetreat.

Sunday, March 19

Parenting Forum: “Coping Skills for Busy Families” with Ashley Soukup of Health and Family Psychologists of Virginia

Wednesday, March 22

“REAL: Preventing Recidivism in Richmond” with Sarah Scarbrough, executive director of REAL

One of the challenges facing cities and justice systems across the U.S. is how to reduce rates of recidivism for the well-being of former inmates and our communities. REAL is a local innovative organization that has successfully tackled this issue by equipping inmates with the skills and resources they need to succeed after years in prison.

Sunday, March 26

“Seeking Justice: Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty” with VADP executive director Michael Stone and Linell Patterson

VADP is a statewide citizens’ organization dedicated to educating the public about alternatives to the death penalty. Michael Stone brings a wealth of knowledge regarding Virginia’s execution history and all the many variables involved in current policy and process of implementing the death penalty, along with a focus on its alternatives. Please come to our informative and important presentation and discussion.

Wednesday, March 29

“Medical Science Meets Faith: Serving Richmond’s Victims of Domestic Violence” with Bon Secours’ Forensic Nurses Bonnie Price and Sara Jennings.

Domestic violence is an urgent issue that affects as many as one in four women and one in seven men, causing ripple effects in families and our communities. Come to learn more about this prevalent issue and how the Forensic Nurse Program at St. Mary’s Bon Secours is addressing it in our community. (Please note that some may find this conversation difficult.)

Sunday, April 2

“Sing to the Lord!: Music in Worship” with the Rev. Hilary Streever, Dr. Mark Whitmire and Virginia Whitmire

To paraphrase church composer John Bell, we never leave the worship service humming the tune of the sermon. Join the Whitmires and the Rev. Hilary for a discussion on why music is so important to our worship together – and maybe sing a few hymns too!

Wednesday, April 5

“Welcoming Stranger and Neighbor with Cultural Linguistic Competence” with Katherine W. Lawson, MPA, President of Families at Work, Inc.

St. Jamesers are doers out in our community, interacting with diverse people all the time. This session will assist our parishioners’ communication with and understanding of the diverse populations in our community. Whether seeking to better understand new immigrant populations, serving individuals who are impoverished, aging or with disabilities, or understanding changes in public policy which guide person-centered practices, we communicate more compassionately when we recognize the capacity of all people to contribute positively to our lives.



Won't You Be My Friend?

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



For some of you the title to this article might sound familiar from your or your children's childhood; it is the name of a song by Had Palmer, a well-known children's musical artist, released in 1972. This song has been well-loved by many for a reason, making friends is an essential part of social wellbeing both as preschoolers and as adults.

Observations of children have ascertained that there are a few essential skills that lend themselves to children easily making friends. They are:

- How to give suggestions (play organizers)
- Sharing toys and other materials
- Turn taking (reciprocity)
- Being helpful
- Giving compliments
- Understanding how and when to give an apology

However, we know that these skills do not always come naturally to some children. At St. James's Center our teachers provide children with strategies to empower them to make friends. Adults can help children learn the language of friendship by putting words to the thoughts, emotions, and actions that are part of relationships with others: ("You seemed frustrated when you were waiting for a turn, I wonder what you could do about that?") and then helping them think of some solutions: asking to play together, finding a different activity while waiting, trading toys, etc. Puppets can be used to act out a familiar situation with peers and think of a solution and books are always a great tool to look at characters' dilemmas and think of what he/she could do.

When playing with children, it's important that adults allow the children to feel some of the frustrations that go along with learning how to interact with others. Don't always let the child win at games, if a child were to take something out of your hand while playing you can say, "That was in my hand, I'm not finished playing with it, but if you can ask for a turn when I'm done, I'll make sure you get a turn." The adult has just provided the child with some verbiage to use with peers ("Can I have a turn when you are done") that is more likely to get a positive reaction and the child has learned that it's not okay to take things from others. The child may get upset, but what a great way to practice having strong feelings, getting over it and then achieving what is wanted in an appro-

priate manner.

Pointing out how others feel and encouraging your child to notice and help others when they are sad, hurt, etc, helps them to develop empathy. As you play with children or watch children play you can do some gentle coaching, encouraging them to make suggestions about play ideas or giving them an idea about how to join in play.

Making friends can be hard at times and it's important for adults to understand that, but with effort and encouragement it is a skill that usually can be learned. As the poet Samuel Coleridge said, "Friendship is a sheltering tree."



With Our Gratitude

This introduces a regular feature of the quarterly Chimes, where we publically thank lay leaders and parishioners who have been exemplary Doers recently.

A special thanks to Dennis Browne, Travis Ellwanger, Trent McFadden, Thayer Montague, Caroline and Michael Noble, Courtney Orensky, Terry and Allan Rees, Gary Riddle, and Stevie Toepke, who

volunteered as workshop leaders for the *Growing in Faith* lessons in January and February.

Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministry

Sacred Spaces

by Becky DeCamps

Sacristy

Each Saturday, the faithful Altar Guild scurries around the Sanctuary from their hub, the Sacristy. One carries the newly arranged flowers and places them behind the Altar. One goes to the Ambry, and gathers the consecrated elements to prepare home kits for LEMs. The Fair Linen and the Liturgical Colors are pulled from drawers and closets and placed on the Altar table, the Lectern, and the Pulpit. And then come the Chalices and Patens, breadboxes, with carefully counted

wafers, and cruets of water and wine, all going to the Credence tables in the Chancel. Wicks are trimmed; silver is polished; hymns are posted. On Sunday, the Flagon of wine and Ciborium with wafers are delivered to the Oblation table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

After the service, all this goes back to the Sacristy, along with the collections. Wine left in the chalices is poured down the Piscina, a basin that drains to the earth. Money is counted and placed in labeled baggies and placed in the safe. Unused, consecrated elements are placed into the Ambry.

In many ways, the Sacristy is central to our worship service.



Earthly Matters

by Johnny Townsend
Stewards of the Earth Committee

Gifts Of The River

Any book worth re-reading must have something special. I am currently wrapping up a lengthy one (again), and wondering why I felt compelled to have another go. In this case a river has swept me up, making me think about real and metaphorical connections to our waters.

As a biologist, the threads of science and discovery Wade Davis weaves together in *One River* are enough of a draw on their own, but it is the human element that holds everything together. Across the Amazon basin, nature produces more than enough puzzles and prizes to demand attention, but it is the languages, traditions, and the sum of human knowledge that form the heart of the book. Across a vast fan of tributaries and time, you can feel the power that great artery has to link lives and generations.

Moving a bit northward, our beloved James doesn't bisect the city, it forms the core of our community, having shaped the course of human existence and defining our relationship with the land. Diverse forests flank the rapids, migratory birds and fish flow up and through. They all thrive in an area we can never thoroughly tame and where wild Virginia is impossible to ignore. This certainly fosters curiosity and appreciation, but the raw power, beauty, and relative immortality of our river offers us more: the twin gifts of perspective and humility.

Modern life tricks us into thinking we have created our own little worlds, that we stand alone. Now is a good time to peer off the bridge and recognize how blessed we are to be brought together along shores that have provided so much. Our river deserves as much gratitude as we can spare.

Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development*

Reallocating Precious Resources

Yes, that's what it sounds like. This has been the year to reconsider some of what we do at St. James's and to assure our spending is aligned with our mission.

Every Sunday, people drive past many churches to worship at St. James's, and that's because we are fueled by the Holy Spirit and are joyfully living our mission. Stewardship has been inspiring. In

also had some new expenses. So we did what any family would do and examined all our program budgets to assure that each of us was spending not out of habit but being faithful stewards of our funds.

Every department has made contributions to cost savings, and we know that St. James's will continue to thrive as a joyful and dynamic church, walking in love as we build Christ's Kingdom on earth.

Peace and abundant blessings,

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



2016 was an extraordinary year for our church, from sacred services with heavenly music, to joyful and productive events, like the Taste of St. James's, the Feast, Servant Sunday, and Mardi Gras. We've served many who look to us in need both locally and far way, providing support for some of community's most vulnerable and, for 30 years, providing rent, utilities and support for the Childrens Center. Ours is a thriving urban church, with members of impressive diversity, from longtime Richmond families to members from divergent backgrounds, all drawn to our church.

my position, I witness amazing acts of generosity every day. Happily, we have more families pledging support this year than ever in the history of our church. We also have a record number of brand new pledges, indicating that people are hearing God's call to share some of the gifts that have been provided to them. This is vital sign of a healthy church. As of this article, Annual Giving raised about what it did last year.

When the staff sat down to review the budget there wasn't enough to do all that we have done in the past. Expenses had increased in some areas, and we

The Interview

This issue, we asked participants in the recent **Generation Change** financial education sessions about their experiences. High school young people, each accompanied by a parent, walked together through four weeks of the course from the understanding of how money works to the planning of budgets and financial priorities.

Mary Pollard

This course has been extremely impactful in helping me learn about the way God wants me to spend my money.

Anne Pollard

It has made me realize that I need to be proactive in teaching my children to save and spend responsibly. Mary loved the course!

Eliza Goggins

This course really helped me to pay

attention to my spending and ask myself how much I could cut back.

Pam Goggins

The lessons taught in this class are some of the most important valuable life lessons we should all learn. The content is interesting, the teachers are fantastic and we had fun and meaningful conversations. Loved this course!

Rachel Page

I intend to live debt free. This class has been an amazing education, I'm so glad I came!

Frank Page

Great opportunity to discuss important lessons on spending, saving and sharing.

Harrison Clark

This course gave me the opportunity to develop a a further interest and ap-

preciation for the importance of good financial decisions and planning for the future.

Dennis Clark

Very useful to discuss debt before the kids have to make decisions.

Jackie Milley

It has made me find the impact money has on your life now and [in] your future.

Cary Milley

The emphasis on the budget as being "freeing" rather than "constraining" is motivational.

Scott Fitzgerald

The facts and statistics were eye opening. Much of the course might be common sense, but gets lost in day-to-day living.



Participants in the "Generation Change" financial education course included (l to r) Frank Page, Harrison Clark, Rachel Page, Cary Milley, Jackie Milley, Bella, Anne Pollard, Mary Pollard, Dennis Clark, Eliza Goggins, Pam Goggins, Scott Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald.



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