



Fall Chimes



Sept. 2018-Nov. 2018

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.7, No.4

Servant Sunday Returns September 30 Come Join Doers Doing!

Kendal Sibley and Nancy Warman

On Sunday, September 30, we will hold our third Servant Sunday, which will include worship in our sanctuary, multiple outreach project opportunities, and our annual parish picnic at Rock Bottom.

"As in the past, this will be an absolutely fabulous morning of worship and service for the parish," Servant Sunday Committee member Kendal Sibley assures.

The Servant Sunday Committee, guided by Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry, has secured plenty of options for serving in our community on Servant Sunday.

"This will be John McCard's first experience of Servant Sunday, and I am so excited we can all share with him the energy, enthusiasm, and fun of this special Sunday," Nancy explains.

We will be welcoming Rise Against Hunger, a food bag packing ministry, and many 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/ServSunday2018>. 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.

What's inside...



Jesus Underground...page 6



Peace Lab...page 8

Servant Sunday Schedule

- 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)

Servant Sunday Committee: Kendal Sibley, Margaret Bloor, Melinda Davis, Becky DeCamps, Russell Lawson, Lucy Meade, Katie Morris, Becky Page, Jennifer Pollard, Cheryl Redmond, Nancy Warman, Chip Woodson

Dress casually and get to church early on September 30 to park, sign in and pick 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 on this Sunday. There will be nursery care for children under 4, should you need it.

Ministries for Doers

(details on the website)

Rise Against Hunger (on campus)

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

Decorating Bags for ACTS (on campus)

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

Shopping for CARITAS "Welcome Home Kits" (Dollar Tree)

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

please turn to page 11

Find us online all the time:





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

Your Choir in New York!

St. James's Choir Led Worship for Two Churches

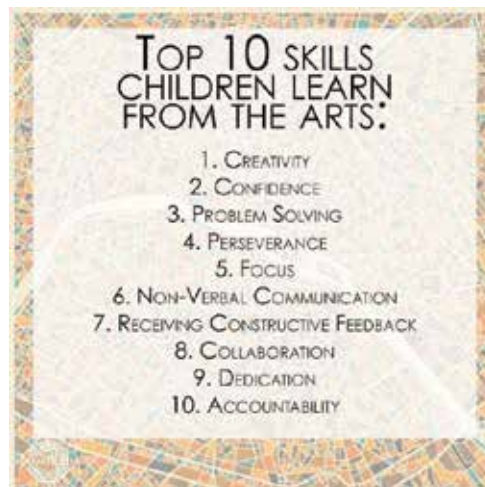
This summer, your choir carried St. James's banner to New York City. On Sunday morning, June 17, they sang William Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices* at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue. That evening they sang Evensong at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. To hear them sing at St. Thomas Church, go to the website: www.saintthomaschurch.org. Choose Calendar, and select June 17 on the actual calendar.



Above, the choir in the chancel of St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue. Left, in the chancel of St. John the Divine.

September 2 Hymn Sing at 10:00 a.m.

We will hold the annual Hymn Sing at the 10:00 a.m. service of MHoly Eucharist on September 2. The congregation gets to choose – the loudest shout-out prevails! If you are the shy type or if your request is not in our hymnal, email your request to vwhitmire@doers.org in advanc. All requests are welcome.!



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 12)

- 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 12)

- 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 9)

- 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 5)

- 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 6)

- 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 5)

- 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

Faith is the Standard

The Rev. Dr. John McCard,
Rector

Dear Friends,
I am astounded when I meet people that tell me that they cannot live up to the *high standards* of our biblical forefathers and mothers. Are they missing the terrible examples of Cain killing his brother Abel? King David's affair with Bathsheba? Judith cutting off the head of Holofernes? *That last one is in the Apocrypha, but I didn't want the men of the parish to imagine I was picking on them.*

Holy Scripture gives us many stories about people who fell short of what some people mistakenly believe are *biblical standards*. These failures suggest to me that not only is God infinitely patient with us, but that a loving God forgives our sins and continues to care for us through the ups and downs of human life. Better yet – *this is the good news part* – our God is able to accomplish his purpose even when we are reluctant to hear God's call or mistakenly feel that we are not worthy.

I am sure that we have many reasons for not listening to God's call. There are carpools to drive, deadlines at work, and anxiety about our health and finances. Maybe we feel overwhelmed by the poverty and suffering of our fallen world. There are times in my life when I am tempted to think the task is hopeless or even impossible for someone like me.

I have come to believe, though, that these *dark night of the soul times* are a place where God makes it possible for us to start over in our lives. None of us can truly do it alone. We need the St. James's community, we need each other, and we need to reclaim our reliance on God alone for our strength and sustenance.

Jesus came into this world to heal the sick, to comfort the suffering, and to be an example for the way we are to live. *In our call as Christians, God does not ask us to be perfect, but God asks us to be faithful.* And we are always worthy of answering that call.

This fall at St. James's we need all the faithful people that we can find to build up our community of faith. Make time for weekly worship, our study programs for children, youth and adults, and Wednesday night dinners. Heed God's call in your life and be that doer of God's word that God is calling you to be.

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.

Wednesday Night Schedule Reimagined

In response to many comments and after a process of prayerful discernment, we are offering a new way of worship, fellowship and study for Wednesdays this fall.

We will hold our 5:30 p.m. worship in the Chapel each Wednesday evening starting October 3, whether or not there is a 6:00 p.m. dinner.

We will have dinner and study in several seasonal clusters, with breaks in between, starting October 3. The fellowship dinner will start at 6:00 p.m., as is our custom. The study, however, will now begin at 6:45 p.m. in Valentine Hall and conclude by 7:30 p.m. We have made this change to increase the convenience and predictability of these evenings together.

Pilgrims Path will become *Adult Catechumenate* and be held during Lent on Sundays and Wednesdays, leading up to the Bishop's visit that usually occurs in May.

Here is our Fall schedule:

Cradle to Grave: Lifelong Growth in Christ (series)

Oct. 3 Introduction to Lifelong Growth in Christ with Dr. Karen-Marie Yust

Oct. 10 Let the Children Come to Me: Growing in Christ for Children and Youth with the Rev. Dorothy White

Oct. 17 Growing in Spiritual Maturity with Dr. Cindy L. Kissel-Ito

Oct. 24 Bags: Helping Your Kids Lighten the Load with Chris Sasser

The Poetry of Advent and Christmas (series)

Nov. 30, Dec. 5 & Dec. 12

Please join us for these opportunities and grow your faith.



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

Leaves and Lattes

The smell of leaves and pumpkin spice lattes is in the air! That can only mean it's time for our new program year to kick off!

This year the Adult Formation Committee, Parish Retreat Committee, Pilgrimage Committee, clergy and staff have worked hard to craft a schedule that offers diverse opportunities to learn and be in fellowship together. Here are some highlights from our Fall Study Guide.

On Welcome Sunday, September 9, while the kids and youth are having fun and getting their year off to a start, adults are invited to join our rector in the parlors of the Michaux House for coffee and an informal mix-and-mingle.

Wednesday night suppers and programming are now offered seasonally as Fellowship Dinners and Study. This small change focuses the dinners in three to four week chunks throughout the program year to create a more intentional frame to both our fellowship and the classes following, and does so by sacrificing only a few Wednesday evenings together. We will start and end the classes a little earlier – 6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – to make attending a little easier for school night schedules. You're invited to our kick-off seasonal offering entitled "Cradle to Grave: Lifelong Growth in Christ" on Wednesdays October 3, 10, 17 and 24. Local experts will provide hands-on examples of good age-appropriate ways we can actively engage spiritual growth and

learning.

Our Parish Retreat (October 19-21) is designed to offer more options for small group learning and fellowship, AND is priced to be more accessible than ever before. We hope you'll sign up by the October 1 deadline to take full advantage of the natural beauty, worship, fellowship, and learning opportunities only Shrine Mont can offer. Register and pay online at www.doers.org/2018-parish-retreat.

Don't miss special Sunday morning opportunities "For All Ages" either. This year in addition to our Advent Fair for All Ages (December 2), we've added two Outreach Projects for All Ages (October 21 and January 20). Plus, on All Saints' Sunday, in place of a short course or adult forum we'll celebrate with our first ever "All Saints' Day Baptism Reunion."

We'll come together in Valentine Hall to fete those who have been baptized during the past year and to remember our own baptisms into God's family with joy.

Of course, fellowship and learning go hand-in-hand in so many of our other offerings too. Be sure to check out the 2018-2019 Parish Resource Guide and the Fall Schedule brochure for small group offerings like Bible studies, book groups, field trips, retreats and pilgrimages!

Grace and peace,

Hilary



Shrine Mont retreats offer a chance for fellowship, fun, food and deeper relationships in faith.



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Servant Sunday Extravaganza!

Kick off this new ministry season by participating in our September 30 day of ministry where we all join together in service! (Details are on the front cover of this Chimes.)

As we begin a new program and ministry season, please consider these important questions: What role will I have in ministry? How will I serve? What difference will I make?

Servant Ministry is rooted in the theological understanding of Jesus as servant. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus says, "I am among you as one who serves." A look beyond what Jesus says to what he does gives ultimate meaning to servanthood. Jesus is a Doer! Jesus does not simply think about healing; he does it. He does not talk about teaching; he teaches. He does not think about compassion; he touches someone. He does not think about feeding the hungry; he feeds them. He not only talks about God's love; he lives it! Jesus is love-in-action every day and he makes a difference!

Please join us for Servant Sunday on September 30. Then give prayerful thought to your ministry role in the life of our parish family. Servant Ministry encompasses all of our ministries including teaching of children and adults, music and worship enrichment, and outreach to our local community and worldwide. Our Parish Resource Guide, mailed to all parishioners and located on the website (www.doers.org) gives a full description of our programs

and ministry opportunities. Click the red button "Start Doing" at the top of the web page to get connected to the ministry of your choice. As always, please contact me (nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779) if you have questions or need help in discerning your ministry.

Ministry Notes and Needs

Volunteers are needed to join our creative and fun-loving **Wednesday night dinner teams**. Teams serve generally 3-4 times per year (October-April). On appointed evenings, each team plans, prepares, and serves meals. Preparation begins about 5:00 and serving starts at 6:00. Lots of fun, camaraderie, and hospitality come with the job! If you are interested in joining a team, please contact me.

All Doers are invited to join our **DAN (Doers in Action) team!** This team ministry is about church members helping church members! Volunteers serve on an "on call basis" to assist with periodic needs such as friendly visiting, providing transportation, balancing a

check book, changing a light bulb. This is an in-reach ministry designed especially to assist those who are physically or financially unable to care for such needs on their own. If you can add your name to our team roster, please contact lay leaders Rob Mitchell, 366-1584 or rhm1637@gmail.com or Ken Hoen, 615-1597 or ken@hoenfinearts.com.

Video Squad ministry needs you! Volunteers are needed to operate the video equipment for our Sunday worship services and other special events throughout the year. Training is provided. This ministry allows our members who are shut-in due to health reasons and others who cannot attend services in person to participate with us by way of television broadcast. To join this team, please contact lay leader Jonathan Sumrell at jmsumrell@gmail.com or 703-946-5159.

Become love-in-action! What difference will you make?

Please contact me at nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779 ext. 333.

ot Hearers Only
Start Doing

Love and Serve the Lord
with just the click of the RED Button at the
top of the church website (www.doers.org).
Contact Nancy Warman, Director of
Servant Ministry if you need assistance in
discerning your ministry fit.

Nancy Warman



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

... for Youth and Young Adults

I went caving this summer...

...and joked that we might meet Jesus in the cave. And we did.

At the end of our annual youth mission trip, we incorporate time to enjoy some sort of recreation activity together. This year, the missionaries convinced me we should go caving to a spot one student had discovered with his Boy Scout troop years before. Sounded like a great activity until news broke this summer about a soccer team trapped inside a cave in Thailand. Thankfully, that had a happy ending, but it was enough to make me nervous.

The cave entrance gate was a small hole, about the size of a standard fireplace, immediately followed by a two foot drop to the floor below. I was instructed to enter feet first as if I were doing the limbo. "You want me to do what??" I knew there would be tight spaces inside, but I thought I'd have a chance to ease in first. Oh geez! The reality of the situation sank in at this moment, along with a healthy dose of claustrophobia and adrenaline. We gave ourselves a little pep talk, joked about "meeting our maker" inside the cave, and then someone reached out a hand and helped me through the gate.

It was much cooler inside, about 62 degrees, and so dark! The ground was damp and everything was covered with wet Virginia clay. After limboing through the entrance and crawling about five yards, the cave opened up into a huge room with incredible stalactites and stalagmites. Instantly reassured, and awe-struck, we continued to traverse over rocks, between

boulders, and along shallow creeks. It was totally cool!

The group laughed, threw mud, slid down smooth boulders, and had a blast! Multiple times when the path – a misleadingly

generous term – became narrow or steep, we had to find good hand-holds to grab and spots to step. The students up ahead were constantly turning around coaching the rest of us on strategic ways they got through. In these more technical spaces, I was reminded my "mom bod" is in a different league from my agile teenage companions.

After about 90 minutes in the cave, and covered in clay, we entered the "moon room" with a high ceiling and a large crescent shaped rock formation overlooking some pools of water. We all sat down to rest and one missionary suggested the group should turn off our headlamps to experience pure darkness. We went dark. The most unexpected thing happened next.

After a lot of random giggles, and a few fart noises (it is a youth trip after all), the group grew silent. We sat, breathing slowly in darkness. Then, out of nowhere, this missionary said, "The Lord be with you." And without hesitation everyone



responded, "And also with you." He then said an absolutely beautiful extemporaneous prayer. He reflected on our week of mission and expressed much gratitude. He then invited others to offer their own prayers. What?!? Is this really happening?!? Others chimed in with verbal thanksgivings for the people we met in Appalachia, the chance to go caving, and for new friendships cultivated this week. I sat dumbfounded with tears streaming down my face. And as icing on the cake, as we remained still, another missionary initiated the Lord's Prayer. We all said it aloud together, in pure darkness, in a cave.

Indeed, Jesus was there. He always is.

Love ya! Mean it.

Mary Beth



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

... for Children

Praying My ABCs

There are so many ways to pray. Are you ever stumped for a way to organize all the things for which you have to be thankful? You could try praying the ABCs. Here are mine.

Thank you, Lord, for
The **A**ir we breathe,
Books,
My **C**hildren,
Dads,
Ears that hear,
Frank,
Good friends,
My **H**ome,
Ice cream,

June and **J**uly,
Kindness
Love,
Moon shadows,
Naps,
Olive oil,
Puppies,
Quiet,
Readng,
Sunrises and **s**unsets,
Talks with old friends,
Unbelievable love,
Visiting with old friends,
Watching a rainstorm,
Extra time with those I love,

Your love,
Zoos with children.
in Jesus' name, Amen.

Live expectantly,

Becky



Welcomes, VBS, Missions.



Bishop Susan Goff led services including baptisms, confirmations, receptions and reaffirmation in our annual visit from Diocesan leadership.

We managed to surprise Father John with a gift on the anniversary of his ordination Trinity Sunday.



Kids and counselors went to Peace Lab at the June Vacation Bible School, where they learned to mediate and walked a labyrinth.



The Youth High School Mission team was in the auspices of the Hurley Community Dev.



Stellar music was provided by the John Winn Band along with the West Gallery and Parish Choirs in our annual Jazz Eucharist, as well as by our Children's and Cherub Choirs singing their Spring cantata.



Pilgrimage and Farewell



the 25th



Our Founders Sunday reception celebrated new and existing members of the Whitlock Legacy Society benefiting the Endowment Fund.



worked, relaxed and celebrated in Southwest Virginia under the development non-profit in Appalachia.

Our Second Quarter young adults began a summer series of coffee on the playground for fellowship and renewal.

We bid a fond farewell to Carmen Germino, Matt and Chris Presson as she accepted the call to be rector at St. Alban's in Davidson, North Carolina.



Rev. Hilary Streever led a group of 14 intrepid pilgrims across Scotland and England, past St. Cuthbert's cave to the Holy Isle of Lindesfarne along the 62 miles of St. Cuthbert's Way.

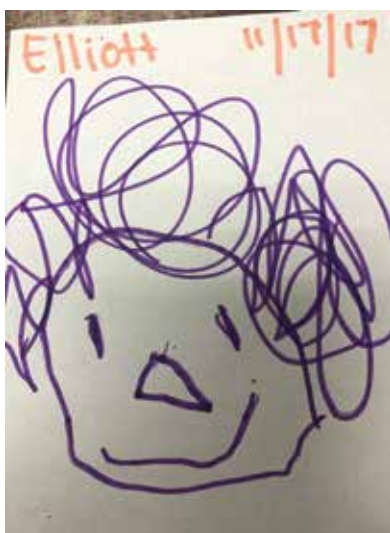




*Debbie Lickey
Executive Director*

Transitions

It is fall, a time of transitions for us all as we leave summer behind and move into the routines and schedules of fall. Transitions are a key focus of learning in early childhood. There are major transitions that require careful planning and take longer periods of time for adjustments as children start school or change classes (just ask any two year old teacher). There are also multiple transitions that occur in the early childhood classroom daily, for example, stopping play to clean up and go outside. Our teachers intentionally plan for these transitions because we are aware that transitions can be difficult for us all. Transitions mean change, which can be frustrating or even scary, but from change comes growth.



As of this writing it is August and I am keenly aware of the transition the children from the Pre-K class are in the process of: moving from our tight knit community to the larger school system. However, I feel confident for these children, as this is a transition that has been 3 years in the making. From the beginning of their time at St. James's Children's Center, children's need to understand the emotions they are feeling during these sometimes difficult times have been recognized and supported. Children have been listened to and have learned that their ideas are important and valued.

Walking in the hallway or visiting the classroom makes evident the progress of these children. Rather than trying to de-



scribe this progress I will leave you with some pictures. These pictures represent growth in multiple ways: children's skills and their awareness of self in self-portraits from the beginning of the year to present time and the amazing drawings children have created as a result of a study of dragons, which emerged out of the children's interests and ideas. Enjoy. And I welcome you to come to the center, as a visitor or a volunteer to witness this growth as it emerges over the months and years.

Debbie



With Our Gratitude

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

What would Sunday be without the faithful service of the members of our Altar and Flower Guilds? The setting of the Table would not be quite as graceful or well organized if the silver were not polished, the linens cleaned and pressed, the wafers and the wine carefully measured and set out and the flowers beautifully arranged. Each time you worship, give thanks for the parishioners who give their Fridays and Saturdays (and other days when special services are held) to the preparation of the sacred vessels, the holy elements and the bountiful natural

foliage and flowers. This year's leaders are:

Lucy Meade, Altar Guild Chair
Team Chairs: Princess Daniel, Julia Scott, Sally Watters, Lucy Meade, Debbie Meigs, Mary Waller Fergusson, Connie Spilman

Loretta Miller and Jeanette McKittrick, Flower Guild co-chairs

Thanks to all!

Special Thanks to Mary Waller Fergusson for her years of service as our Memorial Altar Flowers Chair. Kitsie Garland has taken over as the new chair.

Servant Sunday, continued from cover

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

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

Virginia Supportive Housing (5409 Hull Street Rd.)

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

Brightening the Catacombs (on campus)

20 Doers needed, kids 12+ are welcome with an adult

Polishing Silver and Brass Worship Items (on campus)

7 Doers needed, ministry for adults

Building Furniture for CARITAS (on campus)

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

Liberation Veterans Services (1201 Hull Street Rd.)

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

Home Again Men's Shelter (11 West Grace)

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

REAL Life Recovery House (2201 Dinwiddie Avenue)

8 Doers needed, kids are welcome with an adult

Stewards of the Earth (near campus)

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

Helping Hands for Little Hands at the Children's Center (on campus)

14 Doers needed, kids 4+ are welcome with an adult (check specific projects)

There may be others. Check doers.org for the latest information and more detail on each project. Some projects 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.

Sacred Spaces

by Harry Moore

Michaux House Parlors

You walk past them every Sunday on your way to coffee hour or for a Wednesday night dinner or for a celebration in Valentine Hall. You may even stop and sit to reflect on the day or just have a quiet moment before becoming completely engaged in an activity in the Michaux House.

Our designers preserved the Parlors in the Michaux House to provide yet another Sacred Space that is frequently used for small group meetings, prayerful reflection, or quiet time alone. When there's an event, like Mardi Gras, they become the center of hustle and bustle as patrons check out after the auction.

Actually three separate spaces, each of the Parlors can accommodate 10



The Parlors have been the home of many events, including the Alternative Gifts Fair during Advent last year.

to 15 people for meetings. One has a large table for conferences, and the others, well, they are just comfortable.

Where are you comfortable praying or reflecting? Stop in one of these Parlor Sacred Spaces and discover for yourself the peace they provide.

From the Parting Sermon by Carmen Germino: Grateful Abundance

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

John 6: 11

Well, the irony is not lost on me. For my very last sermon as an associate rector, we have a gospel lesson made up of two stories: the first about taking a small amount of something and turning it into a great big amount, and the second is a story about walking on water...which are two skills that congregations often expect of the rector.

Pray for me, please! Fortunately, I think the folks at St. Alban's in Davidson know full well they are not getting Jesus for their next rector. Just a priest who loves him and seeks to understand him and follow him, however imperfectly. The challenges of understanding and following Jesus are at the heart of our scripture lessons for today.

[In] the story of the feeding of the 5,000, [did] you notice what Jesus did just before he gave out all that bread? He gives thanks. And so, we ask "Who is this Jesus?" It seems that in addition to having a God who loves us, and feeds us, and helps us stay calm in the midst of life's storms, ours is a God who shows us how to be grateful.

Today, as I take my leave from you, please know that I am profoundly grateful. I am giving thanks for each of you. And I urge you to offer your own thanks for this amazing community, because it is unlike anything I've known before.

I can't help but reflect on all that has happened in the last seven years. When I first arrived at St. James's, I was still in my twenties (just barely) and Marjery Fleet was only 100. (We were so young!) I was single, newly ordained, I had bangs, and I was full of

optimism. I had faith in the Church and hope for the world, which seemed a little less stormy back then. There are some who might say my faith in the Church was naive and my hope for the world was foolish. And I get that. The institutional Church, after all, struggles to reach people. To some it seems irrelevant, and to others it has been actively harmful.

It's hard for us to imagine 5,000 people showing up here today like they showed up in the Gospel story. Meanwhile, as the Church wrestles with its shifting identity in society, it often feels like the world around us is imploding before our very eyes, with mass shootings happening regularly, immigrant families being separated at the border, and white supremacists marching boldly through the streets of Charlottesville almost one year ago.

But while there may be plenty of evidence that could turn us all into cynics, I am proud to say that I still have that same faith and hope I came here with. The bangs are long gone, but the optimism remains, and it's because of you. St. James's, we have experienced so much together. Beautiful weddings, joyful baptisms, and bittersweet burials. A transition from one awesome rector to another awesome rector, gorgeous liturgy and music, meaningful missions, and bountiful feasts.

While the times we are in may be chaotic and turbulent, I believe people are just as hungry today as they were



Matt Presson, Chris Presson and the Rev. Carmen Germino

when the crowds were following Jesus around all those years ago, if not more so. People are hungry, physically and spiritually, and the Church has nourishment to share. This church has good nourishment to share!

Here at St. James's, you have the body of Christ, and you are the body of Christ. And my charge to you today is to keep being the body of Christ, and keep sharing it! Don't get hung up on whether or not there's enough to go around. Of course there is, because God is involved. Our God is a God of abundant love, abundant feasts, abundant faith, and abundant gratitude. And as Jesus's disciples, it is up to you to follow him and keep on sharing God's abundance with this world that desperately needs it. And I know you will, because that is who you are.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Reverend Carmen Germino will become the rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, NC, starting in late August.

Pilgrimages Go to Israel and Europe

Holy Land with Rev. Cooper

Start 2019 with a visit to the land of Jesus and his disciples with the Reverend Dr. Mark Cooper. The pilgrimage plans to leave February 9 and return on February 19. The journey includes stays in four-star hotels, and a private bus and tour guide. Space is limited to 21 people.

The trip arrangements cover breakfast and dinner each day and all fees, and final costs are expected to be under \$3,500 including the airfare. The tentative logistics propose the group takes a bus to DC to catch a direct flight and avoid a long layover on the way. All fees will need to be paid by the end of October.

Mark is working on some hiking and other adventures, as well as continuing the format of reflection and meditation that he has used in his other pilgrimage journeys, such as the Portuguese Camino this past spring. The pilgrimage is open to interested people outside the St. James' community. If you have questions or want to sign up, contact Mark directly at: markcooper1966@gmail.com.

Oberammergau Passion Play with Rev. McCard

The German village of Oberammergau, nestled amidst the Bavarian Alps, has a three hundred year old tradition of staging a day-long passion play recounting the last week (Passion) of Christ, as a response to their prayers

to be spared from a devastating plague centuries ago. The entire village takes part in the every-ten-years event. The next performance is in 2020.

St. James's is organizing an 11-day pilgrimage to Oberammergau and the Passion Play August 10 – 20, 2020, led by the Reverend Dr. John McCard. The passion play was first performed in 1634 as a thanksgiving to God for the village being spared from the ravages of the Black Plague. With a total cast of 1,000, the play boasts 130 speaking parts and to be eligible for a role, a person must have lived in the village for at least twenty years. The musical play is performed every ten years and has made the village a center for Christian pilgrimage and devotion.

In addition to attending and viewing the Passion Play, this pilgrimage will visit historic and beautiful churches, cathedrals and other sites throughout Eastern Europe such as Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Munich. The single person price is \$3,999 and includes accommodations at first class and select hotels (and guesthouses in Oberammergau), first class admission tickets to the Passion Play, most meals, services of an English-speaking tour director, all hotel service charges, value added taxes and required entrance fees. If you have an interest in this pilgrimage, contact Matt Harper at matt@mhrservices.com for more information.

Below: The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the dramatic and miraculous events of Holy Week.



Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis
Stewards of the Earth Committee

General Convention Adopts Environmental Resolutions!

This past July, Episcopal Bishops, clergy, and lay leaders gathered in Austin, Texas for General Convention, whose agenda included over a dozen environmental resolutions indicating a strong commitment to caring for God's creation.

One of the resolutions confirms the willingness of the Episcopal Church to be part of the Paris Agreement, the international agreement signed in December 2015 to limit the pollution that causes global warming. A related proposal encourages trees to be planted to symbolize the accord, as "Paris Groves." As we inhale oxygen to breathe, trees inhale carbon dioxide and use it for their process of photosynthesis. Planting trees helps remove harmful carbon dioxide from the air.

Another resolution calls for endorsing governmental policies that reduce carbon emissions. One such policy is a carbon fee that works like a cigarette tax or bag fees. Taxes on cigarettes, some quite high, make them expensive and reduce use. Likewise, at some stores, if you want a plastic bag you pay for it. A carbon fee would work similarly: the cost of fossil fuels, like the gas we fill up our cars with and the coal that fires more than half of our electricity plants, would rise. More people might opt not to buy fossil fuels and spend their money instead on cost-effective alternatives. Necessity is the mother of invention. When presented with costly choices, we will find new ways to go about our work and carry out our lives. We might even find that we like the new ways of doing things!

The Episcopal News Service article, "General Convention Reinforces its Creation Care Stance" is a great overview of all the resolutions.

Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development*

Give so others can give.

Like so many of us at St. James's, Ellen Bush is a doer. She taught Sunday School for 22 years. She assisted in securing the Sunday offering in the basement safe at St. James's for many years. And since 1965 (that's right, 1965!) she's made the crosses for our Palm Sunday celebration. At 500 crosses a year, that's more than 26,000 hand crafted crosses she's responsible for.

Ellen is like St. James's in another way too – the work she does may go unnoticed by many of us but it's essential to the people she serves.

Consider St. James's nationally recognized missions program. Only a dozen or so people go on each trip, but their impact is massive. Now think about the lives that have been transformed by our Children's Center, which has served children with developmental and economic challenges for 32 years. Or think about the countless ways – big and small – that our community outreach helps people in our own city that other non-profits and government programs simply cannot.

Beyond that, think of the hundreds, if not thousands, of lives that have been renewed by the 12-Step programs that take place every day of the year at our church. Or the impact that our music program has on the lives of our children. Or the way that one or many of our rectors has touched your life. And the list goes on and on.

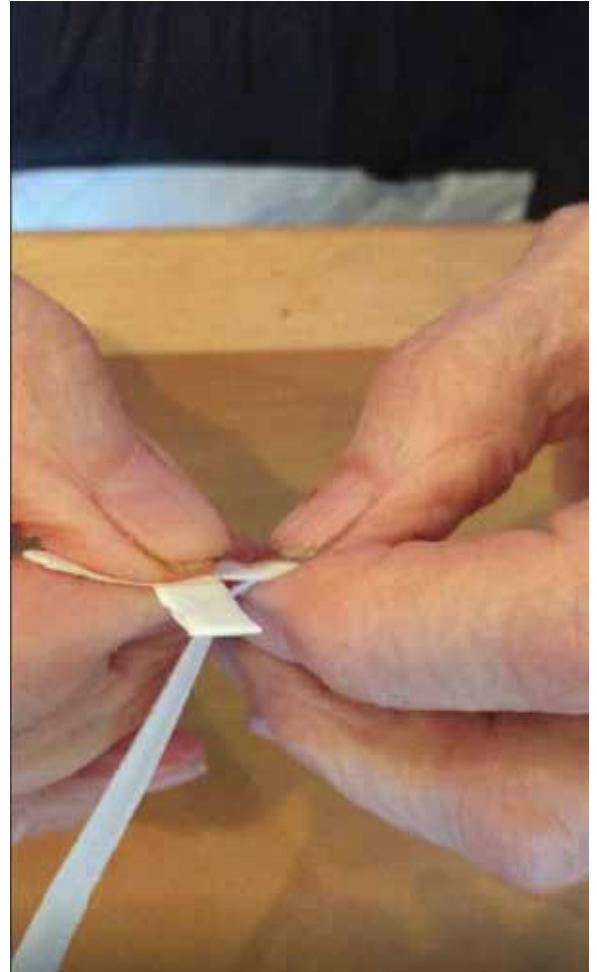
Behind every one of these programs are people like Ellen Bush, people who

honor God and serve others through the countless programs that distinguish this amazing parish.

But we can't continue to do this vital and life-changing work without your financial support. So as you consider your the amount you'll contribute this year and in the future, think of all the Ellen Bushes in our parish – and all the people whose lives they touch in meaningful and profound ways. Then give with all your heart.

To see a video of Ellen making a palm cross with a drinking straw paper, go to St. James's Facebook page or to doers.org.

Peace and abundant blessings,



Suzanne

The Interview

The Chimes took time to speak with Margaret Bloor, a lay leader with the McGuire Veterans Hospital ministry, about the efforts to contribute to the lives of recovering vets during their treatment and convalescence.

C: What was the idea behind starting a ministry of presence to the veterans at Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital?

MB: The idea behind the St. James's Ice Cream Socials at McGuire Hospital began as a service to war veterans and over the years has included any patient on the Polytrauma and Spinal Cord Units. It actually started as the result of a speaker from the Red Cross who came to speak to the ACTS community congregational group. Out of her request for volunteers to visit patients at McGuire's, an ACTS volunteer started this ministry, originally a partnership of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal, and St. James's. We have continued the ministry as the partners have moved on.

C: How long have these visits been occurring and how many people are involved?

MB: This ministry was begun in 2007. Of the thirty or so names currently on our email list, there is a core group of about a dozen dedicated volunteers led by Madeleine and Snead Luck. We usually average around eight to ten volunteers each month.

C: What does a typical visit entail in time and activity?

MB: On the third Tuesday of each month, we meet at 5:45 p.m. in the Polytrauma Unit of McGuire Hospital. Our volunteers bring desserts such as ice cream, cakes and cookies, and we begin the evening by serving refreshments in the Polytrauma dining area. For those patients who are not able to join us, we take dessert to their rooms. For the next two hours, a few of our volunteers will remain in the Polytrauma Unit while



Margaret Bloor

others load refreshments onto a cart and head to the Spinal Cord Unit. Here we go to the patients' rooms. We also help to feed those who are unable to feed themselves, and we offer desserts to the visiting families and the hospital staff.

C: What can you share about the positive aspects of your ministry among the patients you are seeing?

MB: Some of the veterans we serve are in the hospital for only several weeks, but many are there for months and sometimes years. The majority are not local and have no family or friends to visit them. Our ministry is able to make a huge difference in the lives of these men and women. The small offering of a special dessert and a moment of conversation always brings joy and a grateful "thank you." My time on this outreach committee has been near and dear to my heart, so much so that I have become a Red Cross Volunteer at McGuire and present a monthly movie matinee for the patients in the nursing home area. I also recruited our own Oak Lane Band to play for the Community Living Center Garden Party with many thanks to Russell Lawson. Of course, the band received rave reviews and the patients can't wait for them to return.

C: How have your volunteers reacted to this series of visits? Any special memories of one or several?

MB: There are so many special memories, however one in particular stands out. I was serving a patient one evening and during conversation discovered that he was my next door neighbor when I was a child. We had not seen each other for over 50 years, so it was quite a special moment for both of us. During the remainder of his stay at McGuire we became good friends and shared many visits and phone calls. He is now back home, and we continue to call each other once a week. He always reminds me that he misses our St. James's Ice Cream Socials. My friend is one of many who have been touched by this ministry. Our veterans and their families put everything on the line to protect our freedom. We may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice, but this is our way to show them just how much we appreciate all that they have done. It is extremely rewarding and such a privilege for us to have this opportunity to serve in this ministry. Each month we meet patients who touch our hearts, make us smile, and give us something to reflect upon. The phrase "thank you for your service" has taken on new meaning for our volunteers, and we leave McGuire Hospital feeling like we received more than we gave.



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