



# Spring Chimes



March 2018-May 2018

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.7, No.2

## Thistle Farms: A New Mission For Women in 2018

The Reverend Carmen Germino

**W**hen Becca Stevens visited St. James's in 2016 as a part of WomanKind, she issued a casual invitation to come to Tennessee and visit Thistle Farms, the organization she founded for women who are survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Last summer, a small group of us took her up on it. Sarah Hubbard, Leigh Hulcher, and I set out for Nashville, my hometown, to see what Becca and the women of Thistle Farms are building there. What we found was a testament to the healing power of love, and an exciting new mission destination.

Twenty years ago, Stevens, an Episcopal priest, dreamed that love could make a difference – and Thistle Farms was born. Today, Thistle Farms is a two-year residential program based in Nashville that provides housing, medical care, therapy, education, and job training free of charge for women who have endured physical, emotional, sexual, and substance abuse and are on an intensive journey of recovery. Their comprehensive model offers women hope and healing and the chance to join a growing national and global network dedicated to changing a culture that allows human



beings to be bought and sold. To get a full view of the program's depth, visit their website: [thistlefarms.org](http://thistlefarms.org).

During our visit, we got to be present for the daily meditation time. The residents and staff at Thistle Farms make a big circle right in the middle of the factory floor. We were welcomed into the circle like family as the community shared encouraging words with one another. Then we toured the facility, still under construction, and saw the potential for an amazing partnership.

This summer, from July 30 – Aug. 5, 2018, St. James's will send a mission team of twelve adult women to Nashville to partner with Thistle Farms. Our team will worship together, work alongside the women of Thistle Farms, and learn from their stories of recovery and resilience. Cost is anticipated to be approximately \$1250 per person. If you are interested in joining the mission team, please contact trip leaders Sarah Hubbard ([hubards@stcva.org](mailto:hubards@stcva.org)), Leigh Hulcher ([leigh.hulcher@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.hulcher@gmail.com)), or the Rev. Carmen Germino ([cgermino@doers.org](mailto:cgermino@doers.org), 804-355-1779).

This is just one of several mission opportunities in 2018. Below, take a look at some of the other mission trips being *please turn to page 11*

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Find us online all the time:



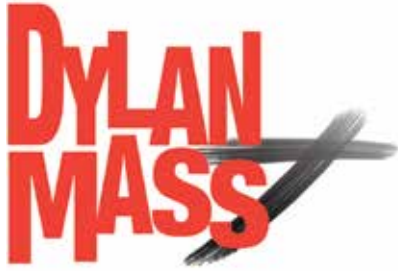


Mark Whitmire, Director of Music  
Virginia Whitmire, Organist and Choir Director

## Music to Lift Your Spirits

### Dylan Mass: March 18, 9:00 a.m..

*How many times can a man turn his head and pretend he just doesn't see?*



In an Ash Wednesday sermon, Pope Francis suggested that Christians fast from indifference towards others. In what he calls the “globalization of indifference,” he writes “whenever 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. 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.” Please join the West Gallery Choir and Guitar Ensemble, along with guest artists Jonathan Vassar, Corey Axt and Scott Milstead as Bob Dylan’s lyrics encourage us to live as good neighbors. Bring a friend and come early. Prelude begins at 8:45.

### Holy Week and Easter

The spiritual journey from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter Day traverses an incredible range of thoughts and emotions and the music of the season follows this far-ranging path. Music can act as a lens through which we see and experience Jesus’ life and our own lives, focusing and magnifying the intensity of our experiences. What more perfectly captures the joy and splendor of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem than singing “All glory, laud, and honor?” Or what more fully expresses Jesus’ suffering on Good Friday than Bach’s harmonization of “O sacred head sore wounded?” Can anything give clearer voice to the power, joy, and wonder of Jesus’ resurrection that the mighty refrain of “Hail thee, festival day?”



On Palm Sunday many of us will take part in the great procession from church to church, singing “All glory, laud, and honor” (Hymnal 155). The text of this hymn, which is based on Matthew 21:6-11, is attributed to Theodulph, Bishop of Orleans (d. 821). In 818 Theodulph was imprisoned for complicity in a plot to overthrow King Louis I. The story is told that on Palm Sunday of 821 King Louis the Pious took part in a procession which passed the place where Theodulph was imprisoned. As the king passed, Theodulph stood at the open window of his cell and sang this hymn, which he had recently composed. The king was so taken by the hymn that he ordered Theodulph released and decreed that “All glory, laud, and honor” should always be sung on Palm Sunday.

### Organ Recital: David Briggs, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Did you know that St. James’s has one of the finest pipe organs in the country? Just last month James David Christie, Professor of Organ at Oberlin, said “This is, I believe, the finest Fisk organ in the country.” While our organ is an excellent instrument to lead church services, you really must hear it in recital to fully appreciate the magnificence of this musical instrument. In April we will partner with the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to bring David Briggs, a renowned concert organist, to present a recital on CB Fisk Opus 112. Before becoming a concert artist Briggs had a distinguished career as a cathedral organist at Hereford Cathedral, Truro Cathedral, and, finally, at Gloucester Cathedral, where St. James’s Choir was in residence in 2003. He is currently Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC, where St. James’s Choir will sing Evensong this summer. This recital is not to be missed! Come one and all.





# From the Rector's Desk

## Easter People

*The Rev. Dr. John McCard,  
Rector*

**D**ear Friends,  
While I still consider myself to be a newcomer to the St. James's church family, it has been a blessing for me to observe all the ways that our parish serves others. From trips to Haiti to our CARITAS week to Mardi Gras for Missions, St. James's is truly a community of faith that takes seriously the call to be doers of God's word and not simply people who passively listen. This kind of active Christian faith is inspiring to me as a priest and I am grateful for the opportunity I have each day to see so many people answer the call of Christ to serve others.

And yet, as much pride as we may take in our accomplishments, our primary mission and purpose as a church is found in the Easter event...a time in human history when God acted in human history. Every Easter we again reflect on what it means that the crucified Jesus was alive to his followers and continues to be with us all to the close of the age. The Gospels tell us many stories of personal encounters with the risen Christ. The stories themselves are an invitation at Easter for us to experience in our own lives that sense of Christ's resurrected presence.

You may recall that our Lord appears to St. Paul who persecuted his followers, to St. Peter who betrayed him, and to Mary Magdalene, who was a lost and grieving human being. The resurrection is shown to be good news to the broken lives of each of these individuals. The Easter event, the encounter with Christ, creates forgiven persons, whose relationship with God and with each other is

transformed. And it is this encounter with Christ and God's Holy Spirit that fuels their desire to share that good news with others that suffer and are in need of healing.

As a community of the resurrection these are the stories that we must claim in our own lives and to see ourselves as part of this great gospel story. They are stories that we can relate to as sinful human beings in need of forgiveness and a fresh start with God. At Easter God invites us to begin life as a people who have been forgiven, redeemed, and reborn.

We live in times of great anxiety and doubt. It can be overwhelming and I am sure at times we can all question our ability to take action or affect history. Easter, though, is nothing less than God acting in our lives in powerful and profound way.

Easter more importantly, is call for us to remember that God can always do more in our lives than we can ask or imagine. In the coming Easter season, how open are you willing to be to God's action in your life? What does the resurrection look like for you today? How does the story of Easter become a story that is lived out for you in your life as a member of this resurrected community? How does Easter answer human hate and begin the process of reconciliation our culture so desperately needs?

At Easter the church encounters a gracious God in the betrayed and rejected Jesus now clothed with power and glory. To be part of our St. James's community is to have new life in Christ: to be loved by God and empowered by

**Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.  
*Ephesians 3:20,21.***

Christ's spirit to redeem and transform the world.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

Easter Blessings,  
In Christ,

### Worship

#### **Palm Sunday, March 25**

- 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, March 26-28**

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Maundy Thursday, March 29**

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

#### **Good Friday, March 30**

- noon Good Friday liturgy
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday liturgy

#### **Easter Day, Sunday, April 1**

- 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 2-3





The Rev. Carmen Germino,  
Associate Rector

## Passport to Missions Program Calls New Mission Trip Participants

According to church records, of the nearly 2,000 adults in our parish family, approximately 150 have been on a mission trip. That's truly remarkable! But that also means there are roughly 1,875 adults who have not yet been on a mission trip, and if you are part of that group, we have an invitation for you. Participate in our new Passport to Missions program and receive a 50% discount on a mission trip in 2018!

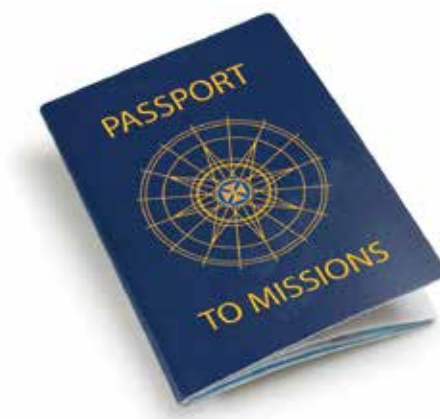
Maybe you've considered signing up for a mission trip. Maybe something stopped you – the time away from work or family, fears about stepping outside your comfort zone, or maybe it was the cost of the trip. There are plenty of valid reasons we might say, “No, not right now” or “Maybe someday.” But I want you to consider that perhaps 2018 might be the year to say, “Yes!” to a mission trip. Why now?

First, there's the fact that our world seems more connected and yet less united than ever before. Social media allows us to share so much of our lives with one another, but it also allows us to silo ourselves into our own echo chambers. In these times of global uncertainty, sharing God's love through service and building deep relationships with others on a mission trip is a meaningful way to “break down the walls that separate us” (Book of Common Prayer p. 815).

Also, our missions program is currently one of the strongest in the Episcopal Church. We have fruitful partnerships

and friendships in Haiti, Cuba, Honduras, Appalachia, and Richmond, and we are building/renewing partnerships in Nashville and New Orleans. We have amazing lay leaders who skillfully guide our mission teams, and we have a parish family whose generous support makes it all possible. But to build on this success, we need a steady stream of people willing to go on mission, and that's where you come in!

As an investment in the long-term



vibrancy of our Missions program, the Missions Committee has an exciting opportunity for adults in our parish who have never been on a St. James's mission trip before. We are offering all NEW mission trip participants a 50% discount on a mission trip in 2018. We hope this incentive will help those who may have been hesitant to commit to participating in a mission in 2018. I am proud of the Missions Committee for taking this bold

step. Please visit [doers.org/missions](http://doers.org/missions) to learn more about the Passport to Missions program.

Faithfully,

*Carmen*

P.S. While eligibility for the 2018 Passport to Missions program is limited to adults who have never been on a mission trip, remember that *scholarships are available for anyone in our parish family who feels called to go on a mission trip*. Please contact me for more information about a mission trip scholarship.



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,  
Associate Rector*

## Aching Needs

**T**he numbers are staggering. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's 2016 report on alcohol, drugs, and health:

Over 175 million persons aged 12 and older (65.7% of this population) reported alcohol use in [2015], with over 66 million (24.9%) reporting binge drinking in the past month.

- ❖ More than 36 million (13.5%) reported using marijuana in [2015],
- ❖ 12.5% reported misusing prescription pain relievers, and
- ❖ Over 300,000 reported using heroin in [2015].
- ❖ Almost 8% of the population met diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder for alcohol or illicit drugs, and
- ❖ Another 1% met diagnostic criteria for both an alcohol and illicit drug use disorder.

We have a big problem, one that impacts us as individuals, as families, communities and Christians.

As individuals, many of us suffer from addiction. Our physical, mental, and emotional health are impacted in obvious ways by this disease, but so too does our spiritual health, as the disease of addiction isolates from loving relationships, even with God.

As families, many of us love someone who suffers from addiction. We struggle to recognize what they are suffering from, to know how to respond constructively to their needs, to create healthy boundaries and prevent co-dependence,

to endure the pain of addiction alongside our loved ones.

As communities, we struggle to address the ramifications of addiction on a societal level. We ask, what is the best use of our collective resources to research the causes and cures of addiction, to prevent the spread of addiction, to treat those who suffer from addiction and their attendant physical and mental health issues, and to address the social and societal "illnesses" that result from prevalent addiction in our communities?

As Christians, we ask how we can address the holes that addiction creates in our souls and our communities, how we can provide support and connect with local resources. As Christians, what is our responsibility to those suffering? How can we love ourselves and our neighbors through the illness of addiction, span the chasm of isolation to reconnect, and renounce the old theology of addiction as moral sin to claim a new ministry of compassion.

Healing is needed and the Holy Spirit is afoot. Addiction in our time is a multi-faceted issue, so our nine local speakers in our Lenten series, *The Ache of Addiction*, address addiction from a variety of perspectives: science and medicine,

addiction's impact on family members, talking to children about addiction, the role of law enforcement, local resources and ministries for recovery, and the spirituality of addiction and recovery.

From its inception last May in our Adult Formation Committee, this series has been filled with the life of Christ. Our hope is that parishioners of St. James's and members of our wider community will find the knowledge and faith we all need in the face of this demon.

For the full schedule, visit <http://bit.ly/2018Ache>. The series is free and open to the public. Please share widely and bring your friends.

The numbers are staggering, but in Christ there is hope and grace.

Grace and peace,

*Hilary*



## ... for Youth and Young Adults



Mary Beth Abplanalp,  
Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministry

### Why Eggs on Easter? A Christian Answer

*This is reprinted from [www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org) by Charlotte  
Greeson & Sharon Ely Pearson*

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"*

*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

#### Symbols of New Life

Eggs have been a part of Spring rituals since before recorded history. After the long winter, chickens and other birds start to lay eggs again, each egg bursting with new life, mirroring the entire season of Spring. Ancient people, like the Hutsuls of Ukraine, decorated eggs and gave them as gifts to special people in their lives. So, the symbolism of eggs does predate Christianity.

Early Christians, recognizing the power of the egg as a symbol for new life, connected eggs to the new life found in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Eggs are a perfect Easter symbol, and a symbol of new life in Christ. Consider the following famous verse by St. Paul, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Furthermore, the egg is an illustration of the Resurrection itself – a chick emerging from its shell represents Jesus emerging from his tomb on Easter.

An Easter 'basket' is a convenient way to carry eggs or treats, but even the grass around the nestled Easter eggs reminds us of new life. In the words of this well-loved Easter hymn: "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain. Wheat that in the dark earth many days

has lain. Love lives again, that with the dead has been. Love is come again like wheat that springs up green."

#### The End of Lent

Eggs also remind Christians of the end of the Lenten fast, and the joyful conclusion of that discipline on Easter. Again looking to historical practices: eggs and milk – in addition to meat – were not eaten during Lent. So indeed, eggs on Easter – real or chocolate(!) – are symbols of Lent turning to Easter. Christians rejoice in the abundance of God's love – no longer fasting, we are full of joy.

#### Mary Magdalene and the Red Egg

An early Christian egg story circulated about Mary Magdalene. In John's gospel, Mary is the first witness of Jesus' resurrection, and according to tradition she spent the rest of her life proclaiming the good news of Christ. As the story goes, Mary Magdalene even addressed the Roman Emperor Tiberias. Holding an egg in her hand she declared, "Christ is risen!" The emperor laughed, remarking that Christ had as much chance of rising from the dead as that egg had of turning red. Immediately, the egg in Mary's hand turned bright red.

#### Decorating Eggs

During the Middle Ages children used to go house to house on Easter, singing and begging for eggs. They were paid in hard-boiled eggs, dyed with vegetables such as beetroot (red), spinach (green),



onions (yellow) and tea (brown). The eggs were called pace eggs, the word coming from the French Pâque, which means Easter. Today Christians still color and decorate eggs. As you prepare for this tradition, consider decorating your eggs with religious designs: such as a cross, the rising sun, water, a candle, etc.

Love ya! Mean it

*Mary Beth*

#### Save The Date

**Young Adult Spring Party  
April 14 at 6:00 p.m.**

Anyone in the "Second Quarter" of life is welcome to join the fun.

We've changed our name and we're taking a new approach in this ministry where young adults in their early twenties to early forties are inspired to play together as a faith community, grow spiritually, and serve as Christ's hands in this world.

Take a look. [www.doers.org/fairh-formation/young-adults/](http://www.doers.org/fairh-formation/young-adults/)



Becky Page  
Director of Children's Ministries

# ... for Children

## Flowering the Cross on Easter Sunday

**T**he children of St. James's have participated in the Flowering the Cross on Easter morning for many years. It is lovely tradition in which the children bring their mite boxes to church, decorate them with lovely fresh flowers, and then place them on the cross which stands at the front of the sanctuary.

The cross changes from a simple white wooden frame to a beautiful collection of flowers which serves as a visual reminder of the joy of Christ's resurrection. We incorporate mite boxes into our cross to offer the children an opportunity to count their blessings and share with others. Mite boxes, small boxes used to collect coins to be given to charity, are based on the Bible story of the Widow's Mite in Luke 21:1-4.

How does it work?

### During Lent:

- Get a mite box
  - ◊ As of Sunday, February 11 mite boxes and Lenten calendars have been distributed in Children's Chapel and through Sunday school classes. Let me know if you need one.
- Encourage your children to follow the calendar throughout Lent.
  - ◊ Place coins in the mite box in gratitude for their blessings.

### Easter Morning:

- Arrive at church with your mite box by 8:40 a.m.
- Take your children to the Assem-



bly Room in the basement of the church building – follow the signs.

Find a seat in the sanctuary.

- Children and some adult volunteers will stay in the Assembly Room to “flower” (decorate) mite boxes with flowers.
- Children will process into the sanctuary with the clergy, choirs, and acolytes and place their mite boxes on the cross.
- Children then sit with their parents in the pews.

### After Easter:

- Once the donations have been counted the children will vote on how to allocate the funds.

### How can you help?

- Encourage your children to engage with the Lenten calendar.
- Bring fresh cut flowers from your yard to share on Easter morning.

- Volunteer to help on Easter morning.

Live expectantly,

*Becky*



# Tasty Treats, Generous



*The Youth Cooking Class contributed several delicious products to the fabulous Taste of St. James's held November 15 to benefit the Episcopal Church Women's feeding ministries.*



*(Above clockwise from top) Advent included gifts of the spirit and nature in the Retreat about icons, the Family Fair to make offerings for our homes and support the Giving Tree ministry, and our first event Alternative Gifts Fair that supported our ministries and events through presents for family and friends.*



*We continued our missions to Haiti, supporting the Wings of Hope ministry to children with disabilities in Jacmel with members of our choirs. This is our tenth year of service to Haiti.*



*Youth Sunday's services included youth leaders in most roles, communion bread baked by youth and an inspired sermon by Rachel Page.*



*(Right)*



# s Gifts and Celebration



*(Clockwise from above)  
Christmas was about  
children and youth, from  
the Pageant to the early  
Christmas Eve service.*



*Christmas celebrations included the Giving  
Tree at Peter Paul Development Center and  
The St. James's Children's Center.*



*Bishop Johnston and special guests joined over 200  
parishioners to Celebrate the New Ministry of Rev.  
Dr. John McCard and ceremonially install him as our  
fourteenth rector.*





Nancy Warman,  
Director of Servant Ministry

## Love and Serve the Lord!

*Holy and ever living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**T**he season of Lent is upon us and with it comes an opportunity to think seriously about one's relationship to Christ and one's place in Servant Ministry. As Jesus went into the wilderness to reflect upon his obedience to God, so, too, we are called to pause from the bustle of everyday life to reflect upon one's personal faith journey and to consider how day by day we live out our Christian faith. What is God calling us to? How do we respond?

During this season of Lent, please give thought and prayer to your particular role(s) in ministry, and if God "nudges" you towards new ministries, please consider joining "doer" friends for outreach ministry opportunities as described below:

**Doers Doing in the Community** provides a team of volunteers who support the mission of community agencies. Volunteers periodically paint a play room, clean out a closet, or prepare a meal for agency residents. An upcoming dinner meal and visit to the REAL House is in the making! Contact lay leaders Mary Slaughter (maryslaughter4@msn.com/355-1405) or Judy Philpott (philpott3@yahoo.com/833-6464) to join the team.

**Circles RVA** is a faith based community initiative whose mission is to eradicate poverty in the City of Richmond by giving individuals an opportunity to grow from a place of need and dependency to one of self-sufficiency. For more information and

to join our advocacy team and for a related conversation coming up soon, please contact me.

**REAL (Recovering from Everyday Addictive Lifestyles)** seeks to reduce recidivism as one transitions from incarceration back into society. Many volunteer roles are available at the REAL House and the newly developed Community Center. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our advocacy team.

**Safe Harbor** provides a safe environment for victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking. Volunteers are needed to serve in many capacities and at different levels. If you are interested in joining other "doer" friends in this ministry, please contact me.

**DAN (Doers Action Network)** provides the opportunity for church members to take care of church members... providing a variety of roles – transportation to a hospital, building wheelchair ramps, replacing light bulbs, etc. Volunteers serve on an "on call" basis. Please contact lay leader Harry Warner (hhwarner@msn.com/357-8157) if you can join the team!

Of course, you can call or email me with any questions on these or other ministries, or if you would like assistance in deciding which would best use your talents and time: Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry (nwarman@doers.org/355-1779).

*Nancy Warman*

**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](http://www.doers.org)). Contact Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry if you need assistance in discerning your ministry fit.



# With Our Gratitude

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

**W**hat happens to the offerings we make on those plates that are collected by the ushers at services and then blessed before the altar? Immediately after the service, they are locked away in a safe and soon after volunteers arrive to count the gifts and prepare them for depositing. Over the years, many fine parishioners have been involved with this ministry, which has been led by **Mason and Wyatt Beasley**. As members of the vestry now take over the counting duties, we'd like to thank those most recently in our ranks of

regulars.

- ❖ Priscilla Cabell
- ❖ Carole Conner
- ❖ John and Ida Hart
- ❖ Lou Kendrick
- ❖ Camilla and Carlton Moffatt
- ❖ Penny Pfohl
- ❖ John Reynolds
- ❖ Alice Spilman
- ❖ Camilla and Tommy Williamson
- ❖ Chip and Sandy Woodson

and we would be lost without the wonderful Betty Stallings preparing our bank deposits! Thanks to all!

*Thistle Farms, continued from cover*

offered this year. Many of our missions are open to youth accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Contact the trip leader for more information. Visit [doers.org/missions](http://doers.org/missions) to learn about other opportunities, including youth missions, Rebuilding Together Richmond, World Pediatric Project, and Cuba. And if you are an adult who has never been on a mission trip at St. James's, you can take advantage of the Passport to Missions Program for 2018 and receive a 50% discount on the cost of your first mission at St. James's! In my article on page 4, you can find out more about this program.

## Mission Opportunities in 2018



Richmond, June 25 – 29, 2018

Description: maintenance support to low-income elderly homeowners with project:HOMES

Cost: \$100 per person

Contact: Andy Smith ([smitha@stcva.org](mailto:smitha@stcva.org))



Haiti, November 4 – 11, 2018 (projected)

Description: physical therapy and building maintenance work at the St. Joseph Family facilities in Jacmel

Approximate Cost: \$1500 per person

Contact: Alan Stone ([alan.stone74@gmail.com](mailto:alan.stone74@gmail.com))



Honduras, July 23 – 30, 2018

Description: relationship-building at Our Little Roses Home for Girls in San Pedro Sula

Approximate Cost: \$1500 per person

Contact: Julie Wade ([julicwade12@gmail.com](mailto:julicwade12@gmail.com))



New Orleans, November 11 – 18, 2018

Description: urban farming/wetlands reclamation as a part of the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina

Approximate Cost: \$895 per person

Contact: Russell Lawson ([rlawson@doers.org](mailto:rlawson@doers.org))





## Spring Brings Growth

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

Once again we as we head out of winter and into spring, we are all amazed at how each of our children has grown – physically and developmentally. The three-year-old who had been grabbing toys from friends is now able to negotiate with classmates and take turns. The shy four-year-old has found a common interest with friends around turtles. They have created a turtle “investigation” with their new class pet. Children are creating turtle homes and play-



grounds, drawing turtles, experimenting to see which foods turtles prefer, having debates about the difference between sea turtles and “regular” turtles, and of course there is much Ninja Turtle Play.

We revel in these small glimpses into big changes as we watch children use their strengths and interests to develop skills, concepts and confidence. Every day our talented and committed teachers create intentional learning opportunities. And every day the Doers of St. James's Church create the opportunity to provide our children with quality teachers, a beautiful environment, engaging materials, and activities

to grow their brains, their hearts, and their souls.

Just as our children have furthered their development, St. James's Children Center has also grown and developed over the past few years! Our partnership with SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) Circle Preschool, (the therapeutic class for children who have experienced trauma, which shares our space) has grown in the form of increased inclusion opportunities. Our students join in Circle activities and Circle students join us. Together the Children's Center and SCAN have transformed our former art room into a therapeutic space for gross motor development.

Because the Children's Center is recognized as a model of quality and excellence, our community partnerships have also grown. Some of these partnerships include:

- Supervising interns from VCU's Master's in Early Childhood Special Education program and John Tyler and J. Sargeant Reynolds



Community Colleges

- Welcoming volunteer Grandmothers from Senior Connections, which has placed volunteer Grandmothers in our classrooms
- Being selected as a pilot organization with RASA, the shared service opportunity originated by Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

The Children's Center Board and staff are grateful that this important work is made possible by the multiple levels of support we receive from St. James's Church, its members, and individuals, foundations and corporations from the area. On April 22 we will celebrate this collaboration at the annual Children's Center Sunday. Our Board Chair will provide the homily and afterwards we will have a reception in Valentine Hall.

We hope you will join us for Children's Center Sunday to celebrate our enduring partnership which prepares young learners for success in school and life!

## Sacred Spaces

by Harry Moore

### Parish House

Most days, the Parish House is a center of buzzing activity. There is a steady flow of people and visitors with constant interaction with the staff and clergy.

Once a grand home on Franklin Street, the Parish House was acquired after the church moved to its present location in 1912. Today's configuration has space for offices and all of the equipment required to keep our church running efficiently.

The biggest advantage of its location is to provide convenient access to the church whenever necessary. The "Catacombs" basement also provides a welcoming environment to hundreds of 12-step program members.

When it was built, it was never intended to become office space, so in reality, it is an aging house adapted for



*The Parish House is the daily gateway into the many ministries of Doers around the community.*

office space. Maintenance has become a real issue with the long term utility of the house.

The vestry is concerned about maintaining the house and is currently assessing the steps required to bring this grand structure into modern day code.

## Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis  
Stewards of the Earth Committee

### Facing the Challenges of our Time

"To fast" means to do without in order to draw closer to God. For 2018, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry asks us to fast on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month in solidarity with all who struggle with hunger. His concern is domestic and international. He names famine and food insecurity due to conflict and climate change as problems we must address. As he explains in For Such a Time as This: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy, it is around the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month that recipients of public assistance often go hungry and must make do until the next month begins.

The words, "for such a time as this," comes from the Book of Esther. Esther was the Jewish wife of a Persian King. She interceded in the political gamesmanship of her husband and his viceroy. The Jewish people were to be killed. It was Mordecai who encouraged her to speak up. She, an orphan girl who had found favor with the King, should not remain silent, because she may have been sent for such a time as this. She fasted, advocated, and her people were spared. As often is the case with scripture, the details are vivid: the decree to kill the Jews could not be repealed, but because of Esther, the Jews were allowed to defend themselves. What was to be a slaughter became a winnable battle.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, fast from something – entertainment, sugary drinks, or dessert – and dig into the details of the struggles we are facing now. Use your voice to speak for those who have no voice – the poor near us, the refugees far away, and all endangered creatures. Like Esther, we can, with God's help, bring about a kingdom of compassion and glory. We have been sent here at this time to claim this chance.

## Palm Sunday Pancake Power

The Palm Sunday pancake breakfast is hosted by the fifth, sixth, and seventh grade youth. Parishioners have the opportunity to "fuel up" before the procession around Stuart Circle with our parish neighbors on pancakes (natch!), bacon, sausage, eggs and French Toast. Supplies of juice and coffee are copious. Our youth plan, cook, serve, and clean, and parent volunteers arrive early to help. The breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and Palm Sunday this year is on March 25. A contribution of \$5.00 is requested from each attendee. The proceeds go to a charity or ministry chosen by the youth.





# Stewardship



Suzanne Hall  
Director of Stewardship and  
Development

## A New Chapter at St. James's

**O**n a snowy and sacred January evening, parishioners filled the sanctuary to witness Bishop Shannon Johnston installing the Reverend Dr. John McCard as our 14<sup>th</sup> Rector in a ceremony rich with scripture, symbolism, and music. That evening we officially began our next chapter in St. James's storied 183-year history.

2017 was an extraordinary year for our church. We enjoyed a year of sacred services with heavenly music and joyful events like the Taste of St. James's, the Welcome Home Feast at St. James's, and Mardi Gras. We've served many who need our help both locally and far way, providing support for some of our community's most vulnerable. For over 30 years we have provided our buildings, utilities, and support for our largest mission, the St. James's Children's Center. Ours is a thriving urban church, with members of impressive diversity, from longtime Richmond families to a constant influx of newcomers, all drawn to our church as we build Christ's Kingdom. Together, we are one body in Christ.

With 57% of the congregation pledging, we have surpassed even last year's historic percentage of people who are joyfully sharing God's gifts with our church. In the past two years, more than 200 leaders from throughout the parish



*The Right Reverend Shannon Johnston, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, presents our new rector, the Reverend Dr. John F. McCard, with a gift of baptismal water during the January 17 Celebration of New Ministry and installation ceremony.*

have spoken personally with new friends and old about their own motivations to pledge and why it is important for everyone to share what they can. The Holy Spirit flows through our church as we listen to God's call to us to live our lives in faith, beginning our Lenten journey with the promise of Easter.

In the coming year, we will be sharing in greater detail what it takes to meet our annual expenses and fulfill our mission. We always welcome your thoughts as we live within our means. As you have read in letters, eChimes, and the Sunday bulletins, we have not yet met our annual giving financial goal. This is due in part to changes in life circumstances for some parishioners, as well as transfers and deaths. Our costs have in-

creased because of increases in health-care, contracts and services, and personnel. Our pledge income, even though it has increased, is not yet sufficient to meet the needs of the church. Not only do we have faith in our mission, but also in our parishioners' generosity to ultimately meet our stewardship goals.

Whether you have much or little is not as important as the possibility of making your money available to God. Thank you.

Peace and abundant blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Suzanne".



# The Interview

**O**utgoing Senior Warden Peggy Crowley was kind to sit down with The Chimes and discuss her connections and service to our parish at the end of her two-year term.

**C:** Tell us about your relationship to St. James's over your life.

**PC:** I was born in Richmond, Virginia, baptized, confirmed, and married (44 years ago) at St. James's. Although eventually I lived in Charlotte for three years and later in Savannah for thirteen years, the rest of my life I have been one of the Doers at St. James's.

**C:** How did you first get involved in St. James's vestry?

**PC:** I was involved with the Cornerstone Campaign and elected to the vestry soon after. I have been a volunteer fund-raiser for many organizations over my life and was excited to serve on the Annual Giving Committee and on the vestry.

**C:** What interested you about this role as a member of the leadership?

**PC:** As Senior Warden, I feel involvement in Stewardship ministry is essential. Stewardship is the responsibility we have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts God has bestowed upon us. The



*Peggy Crowley,  
Former Senior Warden*

gifts – time, talent, and treasure – to St. James's are the way faithful people respond to God's generosity.

**C:** Is there a moment or matter during your time as Senior Warden that best exemplifies how the vestry's work enriches the parish?

**PC:** Easy answer. The vestry has enriched the parish by calling The Reverend Dr. John F. McCard as our fourteenth rector.

**C:** What do you think are the biggest successes of your time as Senior Warden?

**PC:** These four years on the vestry, including my two as Senior Warden, have been very active. I consider my biggest successes and joys to be: working with an incredible St. James's staff; establishing a Transition Team after the departure of Randy Hollerith; forming and calling a Search Committee; calling the Reverend Dr. Thom Blair as our Interim Rector; and calling the Reverend Dr. John F. McCard as our new Rector.

**C:** Any parting comments?

**PC:** Two vestry members – Matt Harper, Junior Warden, and Harry Moore, Treasurer – served their positions for three of their four year terms, including an extra term as we transitioned to our new rector. I applaud their passion and dedication to St. James's. Their countless hours and careful stewardship on behalf of our church are beyond measure.

Finally, the past two years have been an incredible journey, challenging at times, but uplifting and joyous. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your Senior Warden.

## Welcoming Our New Vestry Members



Brink Brinkley,  
Class of 2021



Melinda Davis,  
Class of 2021



Jim Goggins,  
Class of 2020



Scott Hurt,  
Class of 2020



John Mahoney,  
Class of 2020



Michael Smith,  
Class of 2021



Trey Sibley,  
Class of 2021



Karen Stanley,  
Class of 2021



Annie Witthoefft,  
Class of 2021



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