

Planned Giving – a Happy Way to Solve Problems!

Melinda Davis

When you hear the term “planned giving” you may feel the same dread with which you approach a root canal. At least that’s often the reaction I get when I broach the topic with people.

I urge you to reconsider! Look at planned giving as a way to solve problems. Some of my most rewarding experiences as a fundraiser have involved helping people of modest means use their assets creatively to make larger gifts than they ever would have thought possible – and at the same time increasing their incomes and saving on taxes.

Do any of these situations apply to you?

- You may have some appreciated securities you don’t need or want in your portfolio. The first gift of securities I made was to my former church in New Jersey. I had an odd number of shares of stock my grandfather had given me years before, and I had long since lost track of its basis. If I had sold it I would have had to declare a zero basis and would have paid capital gains tax on its full value. Instead, I gave it to my church and was able to claim an income tax charitable deduction for its full fair market value, and I paid NO capital gains tax. I was able to fulfill my annual pledge plus some by donating that stock.
- Perhaps you would like to increase your income. You could use low-yielding stock or cash to set up a charitable gift annuity for St. James’s.



Parishioners who include St. James’s in their estate plan are members of the Whitlock Legacy Society.

In exchange for your gift, St. James’s Endowment Fund promises (in a simple contract) to pay a fixed income for life to you and/or another beneficiary – usually a spouse, but it could be someone else you’d like to support. The payout rate on a gift annuity is normally higher than the rate of return on most investments; you are entitled to an income tax charitable deduction; your capital gain (if any) is reduced and spread over a number of years; and at the end of the life of the beneficiary(ies) the remaining funds in the annuity come to St. James’s. A great result for everyone!

- You’d like to make a meaningful gift to St. James’s, but you’re worried about outliving your resources. Why not provide in your will for a bequest to St. James’s? I have made

please turn to page 11

What’s inside...



Mardi Gras for Missions...
page 8



Summer Growth...page 12

Find us online all the time:





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

Summer Means Jazz, Recitals and New York!

June 3 at 10:00 a.m.: Jazz Eucharist

St. James's annual Jazz Eucharist, sung by the West Gallery Choir and The Parish Choir, features Jazz Mass written by Mark Whitmire for this festive service, and two new anthems from the Sacred Concert of Duke Ellington, Guest musician John Winn will lead a group of Richmond's finest jazz musicians. This is always an inspiring and jubilant service. Come celebrate with us and bring a friend.

This Summer Starting June 10.

Sunday 5:30 p.m. Jazz Mass



I'd like to point out to people the divine in a musical language that transcends words. I want to speak to their souls. - John Coltrane

Hallelujah! The summer Jazz Mass in Valentine Hall is back starting June 10. Join Richmond's finest jazz musicians at 5:30 in Valentine Hall.

Music and Outreach – The Welcome Summer Recital Series

In Europe, one can stroll down a street and stumble upon a recital taking place inside a church or cathedral. The Welcome Summer Recital Series was created with that in mind as a way of sharing our beautiful space with the Richmond community and, at the same time, giving greater exposure to service organizations. The 20th annual series takes place on the first three Wednesday evenings in June at 7:00 p.m.

- ❖ June 6 – St. James's Choir
- ❖ June 13 – Atlantic Chamber Ensemble
- ❖ June 20 – David Fisk and Friends

There is no lovelier way to spend a summer evening than to listen to beautiful music in a beautiful space.

Please join us and bring your friends.



Choir Concert and Trip to New York City

The first of the Welcome Summer Recitals Series events will be a concert by St. James's Choir on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will include music that will be sung by our choir on Sunday, June 17, at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue (11:00 a.m. Eucharist) and at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine (4:00 p.m. Evensong). Our choir gives only one concert each a year, so you don't want to miss it!

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

invites  you to our

Welcome Summer
Recital Series



*The Rev. Dr. John McCard,
Rector*

From the Rector's Desk

Eternal things

A teacher affects eternity; he (or she) never knows where their influence stops.

- Henry Adams

Dear Friends,

This past week, I had the pleasure of spending time at a party with members of the Whitlock Legacy Society. The Society was established almost twenty years ago to honor members of our St. James's community that have made provisions in their wills for our church. We are blessed at St. James's to have 188 members that have made this commitment to financially contribute to the support the church after their deaths.

In expressing my thanks to the group, I used the quote above from Henry Adams (the great-grandson of John Adams) to describe what their financial gift meant to St. James's. As finite creatures, the concept of eternity can be a bit daunting. But the men and women that make up our Whitlock Legacy Society have made a decision that will indeed "affect eternity." No one joins this committee knowing the hour or time of their death. Instead the members of our Society have a deep abiding love for St. James's and they want to support our church's mission and ministry for eternity.

Affecting eternity does not just apply to our Whitlock Legacy Society's members. I would contend that whenever a member of our church does anything as a "Doer of God's Word" they have changed the course of someone's future. None of us ever knows where our influence ends when it comes to our lives. As Christians, we should take a much broader view of the way our history and witness as a church community unfolds over time.

The promises we make through our Baptismal covenant – resisting evil, proclaiming the Good News, serving Christ in all persons, and striving for justice and peace – are not just about bringing God's kingdom to this present world. They are eternal promises that continue in the lives of our sacred community no matter who happens to be the rector, on the vestry, or attending our weekly worship.

As summer approaches, I want to invite you to reflect upon your own path of discipleship at St. James's. Is your life focused on things that are passing away or are you holding fast (as it says in the Book of Common Prayer) to those things that shall endure? Now more than ever, the church is needed to proclaim God's message of hope and salvation to a suffering world. This mission however, can only happen with your commitment to helping all of us "affect eternity."

With every good blessing, I am
Yours in Christ,

Summer Worship

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:30 p.m. Jazz Mass (starts June 10)

Office Closed

Wednesday, July 4

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays

For Pastoral Assistance Outside Office Hours

The Reverend Dr. John McCard
404-408-8241
jmccard@doers.org
The Reverend Carmen Germino
203-314-3647
cgermino@doers.org
The Reverend Hilary Streever
276-451-8809
hstreever@doers.org
The Reverend Dr. Mark Cooper
703-980-0130
markcooper1966@gmail.com
The Reverend Dr. Bob Friend
804-310-5713
revbfriend@hotmail.com



*The Rev. Carmen Germino,
Associate Rector*

A Tale of Two Cities

Famous musician and local son Jason Mraz recently came out with a bubbly new music video that was filmed here in RVA. It's so fun – I can't stop watching it. If you Google "Have it all" by Jason Mraz, I'm sure you will be charmed by how great our city looks onscreen. We have so much to celebrate here: amazing restaurants, craft breweries galore, charming neighborhoods, the gorgeous James River, a brand new gallery for contemporary art, and much more.

And yet, as I was recently reminded in a speech by Reggie Gordon, director of the Richmond Department of Community Wealth Building, we live in "a tale of two cities" – there's the hip and vibrant city of RVA, but there is also the ever-present reality that the poverty rate in Richmond is nearly twice the national level. Approximately forty percent of our city's children live in households with an annual income of \$24,250 per year or less. Poverty in Richmond is deeply entrenched and spans across multiple generations.

Every month, Nancy Warman and I join the St. James's Outreach Committee on site visits to local nonprofits and social service agencies. We have the chance to hear directly from community leaders who are on the front lines of serving our city's most vulnerable residents. Almost without fail, when asked what barriers are keeping their clients in poverty, the lack of comprehensive

public transportation in Metropolitan Richmond is mentioned. Our community has suffered from a lack of connection and access to jobs, education, health care, and more for decades. However, it seems as though the tide may finally be turning.



This summer, the GRTC Pulse is finally set to begin operation, offering more expedient bus travel on Broad Street in the city. A bit later in 2018, Henrico County will add new night and weekend hours on Henrico's major bus routes and an extension of the #19 bus route all the way to Short Pump. A few years ago, it was hard to imagine that this day would ever come. While these developments are only the beginning, it feels like an exciting step forward for our region, and an answer to many prayers.

Here at St. James's, we have a rapid transit advocacy team made up of folks whose faith compels them to work for transportation improvements. I am so proud of this group. They are engaged in the ministry of social justice. Churches are often very good at responding

with compassion to the needs of people who are poor and marginalized, and that is very important. But churches also tend to focus so much on meeting needs that they neglect to step back and look at the big picture. Social justice ministry is important because it asks, "What are the structural and systemic issues that keep people in poverty, and what can we collectively do to address these issues?"

Metropolitan Richmond is currently ranked in the bottom ten percent of American cities for public transportation. I believe that God wants Metropolitan Richmond to be linked together with a comprehensive public transportation system for the sake of all our citizens. And I believe that God wants all of our neighbors to "Have it all." Jesus tells us in John 10:10. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." May it be so. May we make it so.

Your sister in Christ,

Carmen



*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

Rest, Relax, Retreat

In classic economics, high demand and low availability equals high value. What's high value in our busy, non-stop culture? Time. Time to breathe. Time to be. Time with friends and family. Time with God.

Whereas a generation or two ago "Sabbath" was associated with restrictive blue laws, our culture has bounced to the other extreme where the activities never seem to cease. How much more important it is for us now to carve out time to rest, to look up, to have laid back conversations, fun, and fellowship...to remember who and whose we are: God's beloved children.

Consistent with this, our Parish Retreat Committee learned from recent parish retreats that what is most important to people attending our annual retreat at Shrine Mont is "conversation and relationships" and "getting to know others at church," "enjoying time at Shrine Mont," "spiritual growth," "unplugging" and "rest." Not far behind were "free time" and "spending time with family."

We have heard your need. We recognize that our parish retreat offers our parishioners the very valuable setting to build relationships with one another, a safe place for children to play freely, and rich and innovative communion with God through worship, rest and play at Shrine Mont. In a large church like St. James's, creating opportunities to build relationships is of utmost importance.

Giving families and individuals down time, time to unplug from electronics, and opportunities to join over a meal in fellowship or to play together provides such opportunities for meaningful connection.

Shrine Mont, that beautiful diocesan retreat center in the mountains, already has so much going for it to meet these spiritual needs of our congregation across age groups, so this year we have no theme and no guest speaker. You can count on popular activities like Candlelit Compline, the 5K Walk/Run, Campfire, Happy Hour for All Ages, and of course Sunday morning Holy Eucharist. What are we adding? Opportunities

for formal and informal fellowship, like a movie option Friday evening for kids while the adults get together. And, for the first time, we will offer small group options participants can choose to join in to or not, from a deep spiritual class to crafts to a long hike to lawn games and tag to...well, you let us know what small group activity you'd like to lead!

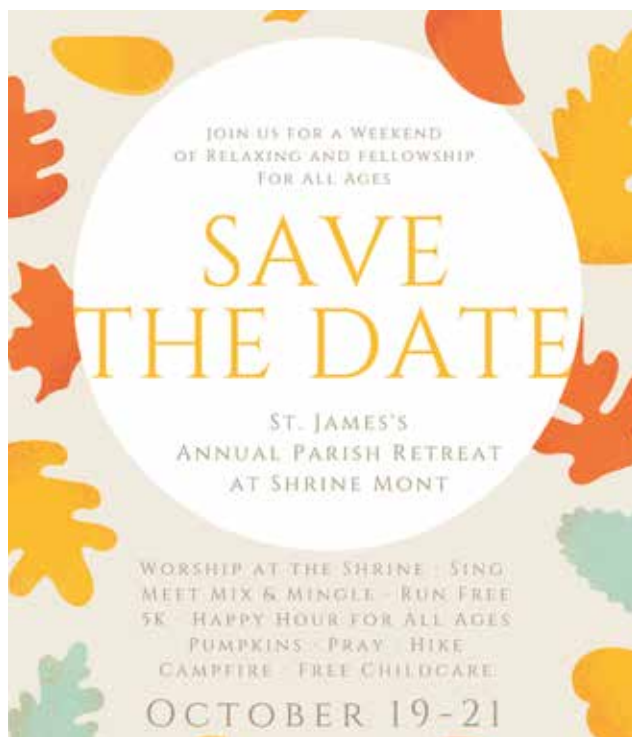
Like last year, we will have an Early Bird reduced registration price available until August 15; our final deadline to register and pay will be

October 1. We're working hard to reduce the cost of attendance, too. Be sure to check us out online at www.doers.org. If you'd like to learn more, contact me, or our chairs, Kate Gareau and Leigh Hulcher (kate.gareau@gmail.com; leigh.hulcher@gmail.com).

There's nothing quite like slipping away to the wilderness with Jesus and your church family. I hope you'll join us.

Grace and peace,

Hilary



But Jesus himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.

Luke 5:16



Mary Beth Abplanalp,
Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry

Youth Ministry Survey Results are In

Thank you to the 55 youth, parents, and parishioners who responded to the Youth Ministry survey in March. The Youth Ministry committee is already using it to shape program plans for 2018-2019!

Here's what you had to say about the Youth Ministry...

Of the current offerings, your favorites are: 1) Youth Sunday, 2) SNOWFEST, 3) birthday cards, 4 & 5) Mini Mission & Appalachia Youth Mission, 6) Palm Sunday pancake breakfast, 7) JYF (youth group for 6-8th graders), 8) Confirmation (for 9th graders), 9) Senior blessings, and 10) PYM youth retreats to Shrine Mont. We'll be sure to preserve all these things for years to come! While Confirmation was listed as a favorite, we also heard that we could make that more engaging and relevant to 9th graders. That's our plan.

Programs and experiences you enjoy and would like to see in the future include: 1) A mix of fun, worship, and education; 2) Outreach and service; 3) Mission trips for youth. New programs or events will fall into one of these categories.

Carmen Germino recently preached on Jesus telling his disciples "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." In this spirit, the church must also "prune" certain programs or events in order to strengthen others and make space for new opportunities. Your survey responses told us you would not miss the Advent Carols

& Cookies, the Kings Dominion trip, the Cooking Class, or the Holy Peeps Project. That surprised us, so we dug deeper. We found that many of you find the Cooking Class is fun, but maybe not worth all the logistical planning required of the huge volunteer team. We'll offer a less labor intensive option next year instead. You told us youth think the Holy Peeps Project is fun the first time, but are not inclined to repeat annually. We're working with the Children's Ministry to transition this to become a 5th grade project to culminate their time in Sunday School before joining the Youth Ministry.

When it comes to approval and engagement in youth ministry offerings, you told us we're on the right track: 79% Love current offerings, 11% Like them, 9% had suggestions for scheduling that would improve their engagement, and just one person is not satisfied with programs.

You said you love emails, the monthly Today's Youth newsletter, letters in the mail, and social media posts. That's great! We can keep 'em comin.' Based on your feedback, it sounds like we're on track with communications about the Youth Ministry: 78% said Great, 13% Good, 6% Ok, 3% Needs improvement.

If you missed the survey, it's never too late to pass along your input to me or anyone on the Youth Ministry Committee (see the Youth page of the website). Mark



your calendars for the Youth Ministry Kick Off Event on September 9, 2018 when we'll celebrate the start of another great year St. James's with youth! Please visit www.doers.org/fait-forma-tion/ youth to learn more and get involved. All youth are always welcome, and adult leaders are too!

Love ya! Mean it.

Mary Beth

A Graduation Blessing

(Source: Prayers from the Heart)

Congratulations to all our graduating seniors! Please send your college information and address to mbabplanalp@doers.org so St. James's can keep in touch with you.

God of wisdom, bless these graduates whose hearts you have fashioned for beauty and grace. Bless those who love them and those who have guided them to this holy time and place. Call them to discovery, to seek their truest self, to fall in love with wisdom and claim her as their wealth. Send them forth in knowledge, your teachings be their guide. Watch over them, protect them, and walk softly by their side. Amen.



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

Praying over My Laundry

I have heard the passage from Thessalonians many times and often thought, “How can I pray all the time?” And, if you think of praying as an ‘eyes closed, hands clasped together, head bowed, on your knees’ activity it is not possible. We all have places to go and things to do. We can’t pray that way all day long.

Years ago a priest suggested to my Bible study that we try pray over everything that we do. I questioned, “Do you mean pray while I’m doing chores like

washing dishes, making beds, and driving carpool?” That’s exactly what she meant.. I’ve tried praying while washing the dishes for the meal I just ate and the family I shared it with, while making beds for the family member who sleeps there, and while stuck in carpool line that I have children and that they are able to go to school. I still try to do that, but often I get distracted by the phone, the dog, or an e-mail.

Recently, I have found something that is working for me. I am praying over my

... for Children

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

family’s laundry. We generate a fair bit of laundry at my house so I have lots of opportunities to pray. They are simple prayers. Over dirty baseball socks I pray “God, thank you for my son’s feet and legs, keep them strong.” Over my daughter’s shirt I pray “God, thank you for her body, protect her heart.” Over a pair khakis “God, thank you for my husband, keep him healthy.” In these simple prayers I am reminded of some of the many blessings of my life and take time to thank God for them.

Are there ways that you could add prayer into the daily routines of your life?

You could try stoplight prayers. “Thank you God that I have a car and I am on my way to work, home, or to see friends.”

You could try threshold prayers. As you enter or exit your house “Thank God for my home and my family.”

Or, perhaps, you’d like to join me in laundry prayers?

Live expectantly,

Becky



Plenty of Party, Performance



Our annual Mardi Gras for Missions was a rousing success musically, socially and financially.

The unusually warm spell in February allowed SNC golf range and outdoor water park. Worship and fe



At Belle Isle again, the fourth annual Sners, some four-footed, for reflection, fe



The West Gallery Choir and Guitar Ensemble with guests Jonathan Vassar, Scott Milstead and Cory Axt gave voice to a modern prophet in the fifth Dylan Mass.



Over eighty young adults and children enjoyed spring hospitality on April 15 at the home of Mary Beth and Chris Abplanalp.



Fontaine Williamson led the Lenten Retreat through the pilgrimage called labyrinth.

ce, Retreat and Recognition



OWFEST youth to enjoy each other's company in the indoor miniature fellowship at Shrine Mont, too.



tations of the Cross hike and picnic drew over a hundred parishio-fellowship and nourishment.



parents, students and teachers from St. James's Children's Center joined worship and Dr. Whitmire led chapel and music on Children's Center Sunday.



April 30, we were able to recognize rising sixth graders entering the Youth ministry and volunteers who make the Sunday School and Youth ministries happen.



WomanKind2018 drew hundreds to the opening reception, Saturday hymn sing, workshops and worship.



Youth Choir recognition on May 6 included ribbons for years of participation and service anthems.



Rector McCard pulls musical themes from "the hat" for David Briggs to improvise a concerto for organ at the recital April 20 recognizing twenty years of music with our Fisk pipe organ, Opus 112.



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

What Are You Doing This Summer?

The summer months offer most of us a bit more opportunity for relaxation and living life at a slower pace. For DOERS of the word, it might offer time to try out a new ministry, even if it is only a one-time event. As you and your family ponder your summer calendar, I invite you to remember those in our community who need our love and support. Please mark your calendar with some intentional outreach ministry! Just imagine if each parish family or individual did so, how far and wide our Doer ministry would reach and what a difference it would make! Please pick a date and mark it **“DOER OF THE WORD!”**

✓ Can you offer food to a family in need? Would you like to purchase a bag of fresh and nutritious food items for a family? This is a great opportunity for family ministry! You can deliver food and have a friendly visit or leave your food at the church.

✓ Recently our Doers Doing in the Community team shared in preparing a dinner meal and eating with residents of the REAL House. What a really fun time we had! Residents are men who have left the jail system and are working towards self-sufficiency. Would you like to join us for a meal or perhaps bake some goodies and deliver them to the house?

✓ Would you like to provide a shower curtain and some kitchen utensils to the REAL House? These gifts would be greatly appreciated

and having you visit would be extra special!

✓ The third Tuesday of each month is a special time for members of our McGuire Veterans ministry team. They provide an ice cream social and friendly visiting to patients on the polytrauma and spinal code units. They proclaim this night as “so special and deeply meaningful.” Would you like to join them for at least one visit?

✓ *GoodChoice* mentors meet one-on-one to offer financial education coaching to clients who have gone through the “Strengthening Family and Financial Planning Training” of Goodwill. Summer months might just be the time for you to offer your guidance in helping a person learn to budget and to manage a check book.

✓ St. James’s is blessed to have strong working partnerships throughout our community. We share similar missions and support one another in helping to meet community need. Would you like to visit one of our partner agencies to learn more about its mission?

✓ Circles RVA, a local faith-based mission to reduce or eradicate poverty in Richmond needs many volunteers to begin its first session in June. Perhaps you can help?

✓ Deputy Chief Steve Drew of the Richmond Police Department gave an informative and well-received presentation on the “state of policing in today’s Richmond community” at a recent adult forum. When asked how citizens can be helpful and supportive, his answer was probably not what we expected. “Small things matter” he said. “Bake some cookies or brownies or donuts, and go to your nearest precinct and offer them to your officers, expressing your appreciation for what they do.” He concluded, that small gestures make a world of difference! I would suggest this is true for all police officers, so whether you live in the city or county, here is another way this summer to make a difference!

I would love to hear what **Doer Outreach** you put on your summer calendar and will be happy to connect you to team leaders or agency representatives. Please contact me at nwarman@doers.org or 355-1779 ext. 333.

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). 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.

When you come to dinner Wednesdays during our fall and spring program seasons, you are relying on the creativity and dependability of some extra-special cooks: our Wednesday Night dinner teams. These hospitable folks show up week after week to deliver delicious choices that fill your tummy and warm your heart. Their ministry is done until next September, but we'd like to recognize our team leaders for their hard work and dedication. If you'd like to join one of our teams, just contact

Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry, at 355-1779 extension 333 or nwarman@doers.org. This year's leaders were:

- ❖ Evelyn Sutton
- ❖ Eric Burfeind
- ❖ Laura Blaylock
- ❖ Bobbie Ukrop
- ❖ Allison Wright
- ❖ Kim Baldwin
- ❖ Laura Shuford
- ❖ Karen Townsend

Thanks to all!

Planned Giving, continued from cover

St. James's (and a few other charities) a beneficiary of a percentage of my estate right off the top. I've provided for my children via life insurance, so they will receive my residuary estate after the charitable gifts are made. You may prefer to make St. James's a residuary or contingent beneficiary; that is, St. James's could receive funds along with other beneficiaries from your residuary estate, or could receive funds if your primary beneficiaries are not living. It's very simple to add a codicil to your will (or an amendment to your trust) to provide for St. James's. And your bequest need not disenfranchise your heirs!

There are many ways and many types of assets you can use to make meaningful gifts to St. James's. Planning your gift need not be onerous and is certainly not only for the fantastically wealthy. Consider what you can do to ensure the future of our wonderful church. Please speak to any of the members of the Planned Giving Committee (listed below) or to Suzanne Hall if you'd like to explore the happy possibilities.

Because I Can, Sir! – A Metastatic Musical Comedy

Wednesday, July 25, 2017 7:00 p.m. St James's Episcopal Church Sanctuary



Susan Randolph Braden is a talented performer and composer with a great sense of humor, who is living daily, fighting a rare (she calls it a "Boutique") cancer. We are all touched by cancer in some way or we know someone who has been. Invite a family member or friend

to come with you, or anyone who needs to hear an uplifting story told in Susan's unique style of music and comedy.

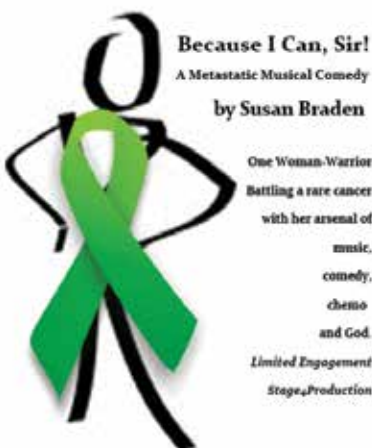
Here is what some others have said:

"A one-woman tour-de-force!" – N. Hatfield, VA

"Your show was incredible! Thank you for coming to West Palm and bringing your voice, your story, your husband and your laughs with you." D. Bloy, FL

"I went to the BEST show in NYC tonight. Susan is looking cancer dead in the eye and saying, 'You will not bring me down! I am going to laugh, live and inspire others to persevere.' Her show was inspiring, clever, hilarious, serious and beautiful." C. Ingram, AL/NY

So, come experience an evening where you'll laugh, you'll reminisce, you'll laugh and sing along. Even if you shed a tear, you'll laugh and love – and live.



St. James's Planned Giving Committee

Melinda Davis, chair; Tom Baker, Brink Brinkley, Jane Garnet Brown, Peggy Crowley, Suzanne Hall, Berno Hamilton, Dave Johnson, Jay Jordan, Newnie Rogers, Jayne Shaw, Massie Valentine, and Hudnall Ware, Jr.



Debbie Lickey
Executive Director



Spring Brings Growth



In the summer months many of us plant gardens – some to beautify our homes, some for fruits, vegetables and herbs, and some just for the experience. As an ardent gardener, I know that to plant a garden takes hard work at times, but it is satisfying work, and work that teaches patience as we watch seedlings slowly grow and bloom.

At St. James's Children's Center we are experiencing a different type of growth. The summer months are very exciting but also meaningful times for our children. Our summer program provides children the opportunity to experience many new and different outings. Some examples of the places the children visit are: The Children's Museum, The Science Museum, and visiting different parks and nature

centers. Our children also go to the zoo, bowling alleys, art classes, canal walks for the school age set, The Black History Museum, Lewis Ginter Park, and swimming lessons at the YMCA.

Why are these trips important to our children's growth? Although we are a multiple income school, the majority of our families are in an income range in which these experiences would be unlikely: whether it is cost-prohibitive, a transportation issue or just the lack of time with some families working more than one job. These types of outings help children experience the whole community of Richmond through a different lens. These outings provide children with opportunities to learn, to experience different viewpoints and to build their vocabulary. And most importantly, these outings provide children with

common experiences with his/her more affluent peers, which provides common ground in and out of the classroom.

Every new experience helps the child grow into who he/she will be. It is often hard work (especially for the teachers) but the rewards are great as we watch these children grow and bloom into their best selves.

Last year, due to the generosity of our donors, we were provided the precious gift of two buses which make these trips possible. Many, many thanks for your support of our budding treasures here at the Children's Center!

Debbie



Front Door Ministry

As an urban parish, we are positioned to receive requests for assistance at our front door and through direct phone calls. The requests come on a daily basis. They never stop. The situations are different, the family make-up varied, the reasons for needed support too many to name. The one variable that is constant is that a person or family has lost their way and is feeling hopeless. In most cases when a person reaches out to the church, we are the last resort.

In many cases, our embrace and affirmative response to providing assistance results in a burst of tears! Tears of gratitude, joy, and most especially relief. Folks have gone days and even weeks with negative or no responses, and each day brings more uncertainty and fear. Our response gives them the most precious gift of all, and that is hope. Yes, the financial support is important and necessary but the relief comes in knowing that one is no longer alone in the struggle. Our embrace gives an opportunity for the individual or family to move from a dark place to a path that shines with opportunity for a new beginning, one filled with hope for a better tomorrow.

In recent weeks, a portrait of our embrace of those in need includes:

- a woman with cancer, overwhelmed with medical treatment and expenses; facing eviction due

to inability to pay her rent;

- a man who is disabled and has learning disabilities; his disability check could not cover the high cost of electricity during the winter months, he has been without service for several weeks;
- a family of four, mother, father, 11-year old daughter, and 26-year old son with autism; due to administrative error on the part of housing specialists, their subsidized housing was not available when planned; father's income not enough to provide additional housing so they were living in their car;
- a father of two children needing lung surgery in order to live; he's living on disability income and cannot afford transportation, housing, and food while staying in Boston to receive medical treatment.

Our Front Door Ministry stretches outreach far and wide into our community.

Please keep all those whom we serve in your thoughts and prayers. Our ability to offer financial assistance is there as long as we have adequate funding for our emergency assistance discretionary account; our ability to offer love and hope is there as long as we know that Christ lives in us and we live in Him.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW
Back By Popular Demand!
SERVANT SUNDAY
AND PARISH PICNIC
Sunday, September 30

10:00 a.m. worship and
outreach projects
12:30 p.m. Picnic (Rock Bottom)

Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis
Stewards of the Earth Committee

Movie Night? Nature Videos: The Perfect Choice!

Growing up in the 1970s, I often watched Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. I have cozy memories of the host, white-haired Marlin Perkins, narrating long, extended takes of animals in their natural habitat, far removed from human civilization. Whether it was sunny African savannas or snowy forests, the animals were there, if I waited patiently and watched. I saw a lioness attack a gazelle. She dipped her head into the carcass and ate. I saw adorable lion cubs. I loved it. Visions of nature from that show have stayed with me all these years, and, likely, have informed my approach to conservation and environmentalism. I say "likely" since I don't know where else my inspiration would have come from; I have always been a city dweller. Maybe that is precisely why I love nature. Often, we value most fiercely that which we know we lack.

While nothing beats getting outside and experiencing God's creation with all the senses He gave us, sometimes a video is the next best thing. From the comfort of our living rooms, we can expand our horizons and see more of the breadth and width of creation than our usual indoor-bound lives allow. For any number of reasons we may find ourselves inside. Keep the vividness of the natural world in mind with a good video. Here are a few I personally recommend: Winged Migration, which has gorgeous original music, and The Journey of the Universe, which examines the miraculousness of our lives here on our "Goldilocks-Just-Right" Earth. And lastly, a comprehensive, recent overview of climate change challenges and solutions, Before The Flood, hosted by Leonardo DiCaprio.

Stewardship



Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development

A Story about Intentional Hospitality

Two disciples of Jesus spot the Son of God walking along the street. They are curious about what he is up to, so decide to discreetly follow him to find out. Imagine their embarrassment when he turns around and asks them “What do you want?” You know the men are red-faced about being caught! Predictably, they don’t come up with a profound response.

If you think about this theologically, Jesus is asking them a much deeper question that speaks to what we all want, what we need, what we are missing in our own lives. Instead, they lamely reply “Where are you staying?”

It’s doubtful that Jesus was just taking a walk. He surely had a reason to be walking down that village street, but instead of brushing them off with his to-do list, he simply replies “Come and see.” And what an invitation that is, welcoming them to his personal space! What could be more personal than inviting someone to come to your home, undoubtedly to break bread and have a deeper conversation in that most intimate environment?

We all crave more personal experiences with interesting people with whom we share common ground. There are a variety of paths for more personal experiences: Regular attendance at church and receiving the Holy Eucharist



John McCard shares a laugh with Whilock Legacy Society members at the Whitaker home.

are always first on the list. So is passing the peace, wearing a name tag, and welcoming people you may not recognize. You can share hospitality over tea, lemonade, and cookies after church in the Memorial Garden during the summer. Alternatively, you can enjoy the creative worship of Jazz Mass in Valentine Hall Sunday evenings at 5:30.

As for actually breaking bread in an intimate environment, it’s not too late to sign up for the next round of **Doers Dining**, which are pot luck meals in the homes of St. James’s hosts. Another way to gather are neighborhood parties. If you would like to host a casual wine and cheese party in your home, I can send you a list of St. James’s parishioners in your zip code. These parties are easy to organize with an email invitation and with a “bring an appetizer” request to all guests. You will be delighted by

the many Doers of the Word who live nearby, and the rich opportunities to get to know them. Who knows, you may even find a carpool buddy for Sunday services!

Jesus told many parables about banquets and feasts, because of the importance of breaking bread together both physically and spiritually. As followers of Christ, we welcome the stranger and make them friends. The best party in town is the one where you are, with whoever happens to be with you, at any given time. It is God who has called you and put you there.

Peace and abundant blessings,

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

The Interview

The Chimes visited with Bobbie and Jim Ukrop, who will serve as co-chairs of the Whitlock Legacy Society for the next few years. We talked about the idea of recognizing parishioners who have made plans for the church in their estates.

C: How did you find St. James's?

B & J: Our children led us. Bobbie grew up in the Episcopal church but, as long as Jim's parents were alive, we attended the Baptist church where he grew up. When Scott and Ted were married, they started going to St. James's and we followed them. The interesting thing is, on Jim's parents' tombstone is written "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only." That verse described the way his mother and dad lived, and now every Sunday morning we get to look behind the altar at St. James's and see this verse. We are proud to be members of St. James's and supporting its ministries.

C: Why do you think it is important to recognize parishioners as members of the Whitlock Legacy Society?



*Bobbie and Jim Ukrop,
Whitlock Legacy Society chairs*

B & J: By recognizing Whitlock Society folks, hopefully it will encourage others to give. We need to be grateful for every gift from parishioners, but having a special group for those who have made this extra sacrifice makes sense.

C: What is so special about St. James's that you are willing to chair the Whitlock Legacy Society ministry?

B & J: We love our church, its people,

its music, its clergy, its staff and its commitment to local, national and foreign missions. We realize the importance of a healthy endowment fund. It gives us, and all the Whitlock benefactors, the opportunity to support the mission of St. James's beyond the annual giving campaign.

C: Why did you include our church in your will(s)?

B & J: We have included St. James's in our wills because it gives us the ability to continue God's work at St. James's after we are no longer on this earth.

C: What work would you most like to see continued in your planned gift?

B & J: We would like to see the church continue to support local non-profits that deal with issues associated with poverty to include education, housing and health. Separately, we have also made arrangements for a portion of our estate to go to support the St. James's Children's Center and any necessary capital needs or projects at church.

Education for Ministry (EfM) Enrolling for 2018-19



EfM is designed to help us deepen and live out our faith in the world. The EfM curriculum of study, worship and theological reflection in a small group is one of the most comprehensive theological education experiences available, outside of seminary. One EfM graduate said, "*EfM has helped me be more aware of the God-full moments in my daily walk – at work, at home, at play – and to discover how I can minister right where I am, right now, and to explore possible new ministry.*" EfM meets weekly at St. James's on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. from mid-

September to mid-May. There is a tuition fee of \$375 and scholarships are available. More info is available from EfM mentor Jane Dowrick at 804-327-1602 and at efmvirginia@gmail.com, and on the Sewanee website at efm.sewanee.edu.



Members of the current class studying the Education for Ministry curriculum.



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