



Winter Chimes



Dec. 2018 - Feb. 2019

Quarterly News from St. James's Episcopal Church

VOL.8, No.1

Advent Asks Us to Celebrate And Patiently Wait

What's inside...



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The first Sunday of Advent begins a season of anticipation that offers us many opportunities to consider the mysterious and sanctifying gift of Christ's birth and ministry.

Throughout our ministries – Adult Study, Youth and Children's Study, Music and Worship – we will consider this gift and its meaning to us now.

These opportunities actually began just as Advent approached. On three Wednesdays starting November 28, "The Poetry of Advent and Christmas," led by our clergy, is examining seasonal poetry and teasing out the mystery and meaning of favorite carols' lyrics, the works of Anglican Divines like T.S. Eliot, and possibly writing some of our own verses. Each session is self-contained and welcomes drop ins. Come every time or once in a while, through December 12.

Our Advent Retreat "What Child is This?" is led by the Reverend Dr. Bob Friend and asks "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did he become the incarnate God in our midst?" This Saturday, December 1 session at St. James's explores scripture, art and hymnody about the coming of Christ and prayerfully considers what expectations we have as we await the coming Messiah.

As Advent begins on December 2, we hold our Advent Fair for All Ages in Valentine Hall at 10:15 a.m. It is an opportunity for all parishioners and all ages to create a variety of Advent-themed
please turn to page 13

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

Worship

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday, December 2 | |
| 7:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 11:15 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 5:00 p.m. | Advent Lessons and Carols |
| Sunday, December 9 | |
| 7:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 11:15 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday, December 16 | |
| 7:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 5:00 p.m. | Christmas Pageant |
| Monday, December 17 | |
| 7:00 p.m. | Our Christmas Hope |
| Sunday, December 23 | |
| 7:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 10:15 a.m. | Advent Music Forum |
| 11:15 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Monday, December 24 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Family Eucharist |
| 7:00 p.m. | Festival Eucharist |
| 10:30 p.m. | Messiah |
| 11:00 p.m. | Festival Eucharist |
| Tuesday, December 25 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| Sunday, December 30 | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| Sunday, January 20 | |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Evensong |

Office Closed

December 24 - January 1, 2019
Reopening January 2, 2019

Find us online all the time:





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

Seasons Bright with Music. Please come!

Sunday, December 2, at 5:00 p.m.: A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols



In the season of Advent we sing, “O come, o come Emmanuel” and we wait joyfully to hear the story of the birth of the Messiah. We, as God’s children, eagerly await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In candlelight and quietness, ponder anew God’s greatest gift to God’s children. The West Gallery Choir and Youth Choir will sing music by Bobby McFerrin, Sujjan Stevens, Patrick Hawes, and Jonathan Willcocks.

Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant

Please join us as the children of the Parish present the drama of the Nativity, with carols sung by the Cherub Choir, Children’s Choir, and Youth Choir. Music includes traditional carols and music of Benjamin Britten.



Monday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.: Our Christmas Hope

In the midst of the preparations and festivities, some find the holidays to be long, dark nights of the soul, full of struggle with life challenges, grief and loss of years past and present. You are invited to our special candlelit service of hymns and prayers for healing. We remember that God dwells where we dwell, in our joys and in our sorrows...and brings light, hope and the rich possibility of life. The service will include carols and traditional songs accompanied by piano, flute and guitar.

Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m.

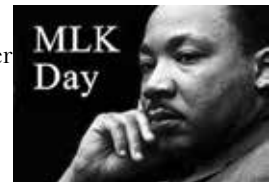


On Christmas Eve the Parish Choir, accompanied by strings, will sing the first section of *Messiah*, Handel’s most beloved work and among the most popular works in Western music. According to the manuscript, written in Handel’s own hand, *Messiah* was composed between August 22 and September 14, 1741. The libretto was compiled by Charles Jennens, a clergyman, literary scholar and editor of

Shakespeare’s plays. He created the libretto by assembling verses from the King James Bible, including not only the story of Christ’s life from the New Testament but selections from Old Testament books of Isaiah, Haggai, and Malachi and others. Part I is primarily concerned with the Advent and Christmas stories. Join us for a joyful celebration of The Birth of Our Lord, beginning with *Messiah* and ending on the steps of the church with a candlelit “Silent Night.”

Sunday, January 20, at 5:00 p.m.: Martin Luther King, Jr. Evensong with the Choir of Norfolk State and St. James’s Choirs

A service in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will feature St. James’s Choirs and the Concert Choir of Norfolk State University, one of the premiere African-American ensembles in the country, directed by Dr. Harlan Zachery. Dr. Carl W. Haywood, former director of the Concert Choir, preeminent organist, conductor, composer, and editor of *Lift Every Voice* will be the Organist and Guest Conductor. The “I have a dream” speech will be read by The Honorable Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.



Sunday, February 17, at 4:00 p.m.: *The Path of Miracles* by Joby Talbot, performed by the Virginia Chorale.

Spain’s Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is one of the revered “thin places” of the world, a shrine where the border between earth and heaven is felt to disappear. Since the ninth century, pilgrims have followed an ancient route leading from France to the cathedral shrine. British composer Joby Talbot’s a cappella *Path of Miracles* evokes four of the major staging posts on the route as an expression of the individual pilgrim’s experience. The text by Robert Dickinson (b. 1962) includes quotations from the Bible and from medieval sources. It emphasizes both the physical and spiritual progress of the pilgrim, referring to the multitude of stories of saints, miracles, and traditions associated with the route. Tickets may be purchased at <http://www.vachorale.org/tickets.html>.



From the Rector's Desk

Through Advent, Watching

*The Rev. Dr. John McCard,
Rector*

Dear Friends,
During the Advent season, I usually feel like a hypocrite. While I am good at preaching to others the need to slow up, spend more time in prayer and Bible study, I seldom feel that I take my own advice. Like many of you, I get easily caught up in a long list of various holiday duties and tasks. Detachment from the hectic pace of human life seems not only unrealistic but also, faithless to the St. James's mission to be "a doer of God's Word."

Besides, Newman's suggestion that we should be detached from what is going on around us seems like a cop out. What was he thinking? How can any of us avoid the pain and suffering that comes from living in our present world? Isn't living in what is unseen simply a new form of human denial? A defense mechanism that denies in times of despair there is anywhere for us to turn for consolation and solace.

Of course, Newman knew something about loss. He turned his back on a promising academic and ecclesiastical career in the Church of England to become a Roman Catholic when most of his contemporaries thought that being a Catholic was a form of high treason. So maybe Newman's understanding of Advent goes a bit deeper than pretending that human pain doesn't exist, or at least thinking that Advent is some kind pie in the sky wish fulfillment.

In a spiritual sense, I have always believed that to desire our Lord's second coming is to desire our own end. It is the end of what we know of this world

and the start of a new life in God's kingdom. John the Baptist told his listeners that the kingdom of heaven had come near. This is the same message we announce to the world in the Advent season.

The affectionate remembrance of the first coming should remind us that our Lord and Savior entered a world much like ours today. There was political division in his land and strong currents of hate toward those that were different. We should never forget that Jesus was born in a stable because he was homeless. Jesus's incarnation, God's Word becoming flesh, reminds Christians that God's creation is always struggling against all odds toward fulfillment.

We should not, however, let those odds dissuade us from greeting this season with a renewed sense of purpose for our lives. The false idols of our present age will eventually pass away just as the Roman Emperors did who styled themselves to be gods. Placing our hopes in this world will always result in disappointment.

True hope starts when we have the courage to place our sorrows and pain at the base of the manger and admit that we are ready for God's kingdom to come into our broken lives and heal our weary souls. So my friends, be watchful and live in the thought of Christ as he once came, and will one day come again.

This then is to watch;

To be detached from what is present, and
To live in what is unseen;
To live in the thought of Christ as he came once,
And as he will come again;
To desire his second coming, from our affectionate
And grateful remembrance of his first.

John Henry Newman

Yours in Christ,

For Pastoral Assistance Outside Office Hours

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*The Rev. Hilary Streever,
Associate Rector*

Embodying Incarnation

For me one of the most precious mysteries of Christianity is the incarnation: Immanuel, God coming to dwell with us in the flesh. In the ancient Greek world and in our own time in the West, the separation of body and mind or spirit is a paradigm we take for granted. In Jesus' time and now, the incarnation is incomprehensible. For some, it was repulsive: Plato and other Greek philosophers considered the body and the physical realm to be "lesser" than the spiritual realm; Gnostics took it one step further, believing that the physical realm was evil. Unfortunately, this culture associated "female" with the physical realm and "male" with the spiritual realm.

Christ's incarnation flies in the face of these teachings. God Embodied. The Union of flesh and God. God, born of a woman. The Almighty, Eternal One in frail finite physical form. The incarnation is the ultimate expression of Christ's humility, perhaps best expressed by Philippians 2:1-11.

David and I learned on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, that we would be parents before the end of the year. Since Easter, therefore, we have been in our own advent: a period of waiting, anticipation, and preparation for the arrival of our little one. As a woman, I have experienced embodiment like never before. Like many westerners, I usually just inhabit my body, caring for it in a detached kind of way. Little reminds me to be constantly aware of my

body: I am not an athlete nor a dancer, and I have no physical difference that requires I pay attention to architectural limitations like stairs.

Being pregnant, however, has made me fully aware of my body – cognizant that it's just as much "me" as my mind and spirit are, that mind-body-spirit are deeply connected, and that both my child and I are fully dependent upon its wellbeing. More than ever I have been struck by Jesus's teaching to Peter: "Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (John 21:18) In other words, there's this big thing happening, and I am an active participant with big responsibilities.

So, for me, pregnancy has given me lived insight into the incarnation, and it has been humbling and empowering. The humble awe and creative empowerment of a new person being brought into the world. The humility that comes from relying on others for help and patience as I learn that I can't move as fast or do as much as I once could, and the joy at others gladly pitching in. The pain of knowing that there are others who wish to be parents who struggle or are unable to be, and that there are others who are parents who don't wish to be. The paradox that even as I am empowered with great responsibility, I am not

in control: I don't control the baby's growth and development, and even my womb is not completely safe. The stark vulnerability of the fine line between life-altering joy and sorrow is clear.

I expect none of these insights were lost on Mary – the one who birthed the Messiah – or Christ, the one who birthed creation both old and new. As we move into the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, my prayer for you is that you may have a glimpse of the mystery of the incarnation, however God may reveal it to you. Take time to humbly dwell with the Mystery, for the Mystery humbly dwells with you.

Grace and peace,

Hilary



Nancy Warman,
Director of Servant Ministry

Stand Boldly as People of Faith and Hope and Joy

Share your blessings, give hope and joy!

Christmas Giving Tree Ministry

Return unwrapped children's gifts and wrapped senior gifts no later than Sunday, December 9, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Give a gift of joy to children and senior citizens who participate in the Peter Paul Development Center or a gift to support community folks in need of housing stability. Wish list ornaments are located in the Narthex. Please return senior gifts wrapped and gifts for children unwrapped to Valentine Hall no later than Sunday, December 9, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CARITAS Intake Ministry

December 8-January 5, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

During this holiday season, bring your family and friends to offer presence and hospitality to approximately 35 women who will be our CARITAS guests. St. James's will host nightly intake in Michaux House basement as women wait for the bus to transport them to their overnight congregation. CARITAS staff will be on duty to handle all intake services. Volunteers will provide a warm welcome and be responsible for our building, including locking up each evening. Two to three volunteers are needed each night, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Please register to volunteer on Sign-Up Genius (<http://bit.ly/2018Intake>) or contact lay leader Steve McCoy (822-4490/steve.mccoy@patientfirst.com).

Loving and Creator God,

We pray for your presence and guidance as we approach the Christmas season.

We give thanks for those who serve and for those who are served. As Doers of the Word, help us to stand boldly as people of faith, people of hope, and people of joy. Inspire us with your blessings, and help us this season to give as you do, with abundance of generosity, compassion, and joy.

Alternative Gift Market

Sunday, December 9, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Let the Holy Spirit and your heart lead your gift-giving! Join us in Michaux House for the Alternative Gift Market and select gifts that promise to have special meaning to the recipient and that also support our ministry partners including ACTS, Children's Center, Mardi Gras, CARITAS, Safe Harbor, and REAL. Enjoy choosing gift certificates for pilgrimages and retreats, and have fun selecting stocking stuffers from One Little World fair trade.

In-House Ministry Needs

Video Ministry is in need of additional volunteers to operate the video equipment for each worship service that we webcast. This ministry allows those who cannot attend services due to poor health, disability, or other reasons to see regular Sunday morning services and some special event services. Training is provided. If you can join this team of DOERS, please contact lay leader Jonathan Sumrell (jmsumrell@gmail.com or 703-946-5159).

DAN (DOERS ACTION NET-

WORK) team members serve on an "on-call" to provide occasional support and assistance to a member of the church. Transportation, changing light bulbs, shoveling snow, or just a friendly visit are all within the scope of services. If you can add your name to our DOER DAN roster, please contact lay leaders Rob Mitchell (rhm1637@gmail.com/366-1584) or Ken Hoen (ken@hoenfinearts.com/615-1597).

Love and Serve the Lord!

Contact Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry, if you need assistance discerning your ministry.

Nancy Warman



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

... for Youth and Young Adults

MLK Youth Lock-In for Service

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is often overshadowed as being a school holiday and chance to sleep in for students. But this year our 10th-12th graders at St. James's have decided to embrace this as the Day of Service this national holiday is intended to be.

On Sunday, January 20 through Monday, January 21, our 10th-12th grade youth will have a **MLK Lock-In for Service**. The group will begin this Lock-In, a popular overnight event for church youth groups, by attending the MLK Evensong together at 5:00 p.m. We'll get some pizza for dinner and then we'll get to work.

As the major service component of the Lock-In, our youth will help renovate the Catacombs of the church (common name for the basement of a church). In this space at St. James's, dozens of AA, Al-anon, and related support groups meet each week to support people through their recovery. Really important ministry and holy work takes place in this space.

If you haven't been down to the catacombs recently, you'd likely be surprised to see the contrast in conditions between that space and Valentine Hall. Work has been done in there as recently as Servant Sunday this past September to replace ceiling tiles, but the space is still in dire need of some fresh paint, flooring, and baseboards, among other things.

Don't worry, in addition to meaningful work, it promises to be lots of fun! After we do our rehab work, we'll sleep over in the Michaux House and enjoy fun with



Father John checks out the Catacombs ceiling tiles last Servant Sunday.

new and old friends. Youth can earn six hours of community service time, too! So 10th-12th graders, please save the date and plan to be part of this fun and meaningful Lock-In!

Love ya! Mean it.

Mary Beth

**Save the Date:
January 20-21, 2019
MLK Lock-In
for Service
10th-12th graders**



Becky Page
Director of Children's Ministries

... for Children

Love adds a little chocolate

I recently had the opportunity to chaperone a group of high school boys during a volunteer service outing. The boys had signed up to help clean and organize a gym and an art classroom for a few hours on a Saturday morning. I wouldn't say any of them was excited to be up and out of bed early on the one day of the week they can sleep in, but they were there. The volunteer coordinator spoke to the boys briefly about what they would do and those they would serve. At the closing of her remarks she shared a quote from Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

This started me thinking of other examples of great love. One of Jesus's miracles, the Feeding of the 5,000, appears in all four gospels. But, only in the gospel of John do we learn that the source of the five loaves and two fish is a small boy. This summer I read a book entitled The Church of Small Things in which the author wondered about this miracle. What was the mother of the small boy thinking when she packed his lunch? Did she hope he wouldn't lose it? Did she hope he might share with someone else who had forgotten his lunch? Did she think that Jesus would use those five small barley loaves and two fish to feed 5,000 people? Did she think that lunch would be something people would talk about today? We don't know. Maybe, she packed that small lunch with great love and let God do the rest?

Another book which I learned about in a Bible study, Love Adds a Little Chocolate, shares the same idea of doing small things with great love. "Duty can pack an adequate sack lunch, but love may decide to enclose a little love note inside... Obligation sends children to bed on time, but love tucks the covers in around their necks and passes out kisses and hugs (even to teenagers!)... Duty gets offended quickly if it isn't appreciated, but love learns to laugh a lot and to work for the sheer joy of doing it. Obligation can pour a glass of milk, but quite often, love adds a little chocolate."

I pray that we all try to do small things with great love and let God do the rest.

Live expectantly,

Becky



A Full Fall: Retreats, Music,



Children, teachers and parents participated in our first Blessing of the Backpacks as school started.



Corey's Gospel Hour featured Corey Axt and other local talent performing old time favorites, originals, and readings.



Our U with g



Welcome Sunday included the Youth Ministry Fall Kickoff and return to Sunday Schol classes.



Our ECW honored Hilary and David Streever with a shower celebrating the upcoming birth of their first child.



In late summer, the parish staff gathered at the Woodson's home on the Rappahannock to consider the next year's focus.



The third Servant Sunday on September 30 again celebrated "Be Ye Doers of The Word" with over a dozen ministries involving 300+ volunteers in an effort that began with a common Eucharist and continued with work like refurbishing, neighborhood clean up, ACTS and CARITAS, and our Rise Against Hunger meal packing.



Following Servant Sunday, our parish picnic gathered members of BSA Troop 400.

Servant Sunday and Events



12 Celtic Mass was led by the Guitar Ensemble and West Gallery Choir, guests Corey Axt and Alan Parker.



The autumn Retreat at Shrine Mont enjoyed weather good enough for our 5K, deepening friendships and showing off our talents, along with worship, study and tons of relaxing free time.



Our first Newcomers Class was this fall. The class meets twice in a week and occurs a couple of times a year to welcome and orient parishioners who have just joined our pews.



On All Saints Sunday we held a reunion for all those baptized in the past year, families and Baptism Guides.



gathered young and old for fellowship and a feast courtesy



Annual Giving Chairs presented pledges to be blessed October 28.



Debbie Lickey
Executive Director



Spreading the Joy!

Every day of the year the Children's Center is gifted with the support of St. James's as the primary outreach program for the church. This gift provides a quality and loving start to the children we serve as well as support, referrals and education to their families.

In our program, social-emotional skills are a primary focus for our children and one of those skills we teach is empathy. This teaching takes many forms: teaching about our own and others many feelings, learning about turn taking, sharing and working together, noticing how our actions make others feel, and thinking about how we can help others.

In the past year we have had the great pleasure of expanding our own ministry to include Circle Center Adult

Day Services, a local day center that provides care for adults with dementia, Alzheimer's, and other needs specific to senior citizens. Circle Center enables their clients to live at home and provides respite for family caregivers.

The Pre-K class at the Center visits the Circle Day Center every other Tuesday morning, where staff has created activities for these two different generations to share and bond. There is a sweet welcoming song, a shared activity, and a snack provided before heading back to the Children's Center. On the day that I visited with them, the adults who are served were talking about the songs that they sang to their children (many that were classics that our children know as well). It was

beautiful and amazing to see the joy on the adult's faces as they shared these memories and, of course, four year old children just exude joy as they sing a familiar song.

We are so blessed to have this experience to teach our children to learn and care about people of a different generation and giving back. The enthusiasm, laughter and smiles when our children arrive demonstrates that that blessing extends to their new friends at Circle Center!

Debbie

There's no doubt as to the delight on the faces of our students and the adults at Circle Center Adult Day Services as they share crafts and music.



With Our Gratitude

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

Worship is an environment where many skills blend together with passion and intention as we stand before our God and raise our eyes to the heavens and our voices in praise and thanks. Services could not happen without hundreds of dedicated lay volunteers and their lay leaders. Let's thank them when we see them in church.

83 Acolytes – Robin Jager & Sarah Hubbard, Acolyte Masters

38 Altar Guild members – Lucy Meade & Debbie Meigs, Co-chairs

23 Flower Guild members – Jeanette McKittrick & Loretta Miller, Co-chairs

100 Lectors – Lisa Niemeier

52 Lay Eucharistic Ministers – Michael Lantz

105 Ushers – Harry Turton, 9:00 Teams Chief Usher; Brink Brinkley, 11:15 Teams Chief Usher

8 Video Squad members – Jonathan Sumrell

11 Wheels Ministry members – John Willett

The St. James's Children's Center Christmas Cross Tradition Continues

It began close to 20 years ago. A group of several women, wanting to support the Children's Center at Christmastime, came up with the idea of making a ceramic cross that may be offered as a fundraiser for the Center. From the design process, material gathering, assembling a volunteer group of 'makers,' firing and glazing and then packaging and selling, this tradition continues on as a means to raise funds for the Center while sharing the story of this very special St. James's mission.

Given as a gift, hung on a tree or worn as a special piece, the Children's Center Christmas Cross is here for 2018!

The cross was first available for purchase at Taste of St. James's and now on Sundays at church as long as supplies last. Or they may be reserved/ordered in advance by contacting Jennifer Sisk at: jlsiskcomm@aol.com.

Sacred Spaces

by Harry Moore

Parkinson Room

Picture, if you can, our church without Valentine Hall. It's hard to believe we have become so dependent on Valentine, but until 2009 the Parkinson Room was the primary large meeting space of the church.

My, how times have changed. We can all remember it packed with people, whether for an important presentation or The Bazaar with countless displays of colorful wares. It was used for, well, most everything not requiring an altar.

The Parkinson Room was a product of the rebuilding of the church in 1994-1997. When the sanctuary was gutted after the 1994 fire, the engineers discovered that the original foundations were deep enough for an undercroft to be added. James T. Parkinson, Jr.'s



The Parkinson Room has space for large groups like the one at the Reverend Dr. Thom Blair Jr.'s popular Bible study on Sunday.

(Jim Parkinson's father and Caroline Parkinson's father-in-law) generous donation funded the construction in honor of his late wife Elizabeth Hopkins Parkinson, and the room was named in their honor.

Many Sundays, Thom Blair fills the room with his faithful followers and his wondrous lessons between our worship services. Music events use this space for receptions and retreats for study. Truly an all-purpose and sacred space.



Bring Your Big Ideas To Our Small Group Ministry

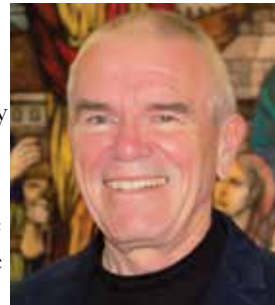
When I was a senior in seminary many years ago I was introduced to a book that made a significant impression on me as I prepared to leave and begin ordained ministry. The book was called The Church In the Way. I have long since lost my copy but not the ideas presented. The premise of the book was that life as an adult was often filled with work that was career oriented and full of risk. The author suggested that the church could become a place to experience other aspects of a person's interest without the risk of the market place. While you might be filing taxes, or arguing a case, selling products or raising children, whatever, the stakes could often be high. The church offered a place where a person could learn how to sing in a choir, develop leadership

skills serving on the Vestry, work with young people in schools or teaching in Sunday School.

The world has grown in intensity and expectation but the church still offers opportunities to grow in other skills and interests.

My expanded role on the pastoral staff includes developing small group ministry. This fall we've had discussion on Quantum Physics, developed a running team for those training for the Richmond Marathon, and we have a group going to the Holy Land early next year. We have a group for people who work on contract in the new economy, SelfStarters, and a support group for people who are caregivers for loved ones. The possibilities are seemingly unlimited. If you have an interest there are

likely others in our community who might like to join you. I clearly love the work I am able to be part of both in pastoral care, liturgy and preaching and in finding ways to pull people together for common interests. Lets have coffee and talk about your ideas. Call me at 703-980-0130 or email markcooper1966@gmail.com.



Rev. Dr. Mark Cooper, Associate Rector for Small Group Ministry

Oberammergau Passion Play Pilgrimage with Reverend 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@mhrs-services.com for more information.

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



Advent, continued from cover

crafts, pick up new spiritual tools, and enjoy fellowship as we prepare for the season of Advent. In the evening, our West Gallery and Youth Choirs lead a 5:00 p.m. “Advent Lessons and Carols” service. In candlelight and quietness, we can ponder anew God’s greatest gift to God’s children. The choirs will sing music by Bobby McFerrin, Sufjan Stevens, Patrick Hawes, and Jonathan Willcocks.

On December 9, the Advent Alternative Gift Market reopens in Michaux House. This is a one hour pop-up occasion so that, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, the gifts we prepare for others can reflect His love. Choose among donations in honor of someone you love to our partner agencies such as ACTS and CARITAS, gift certificates to mission trips and retreats, or fair trade stocking stuffers. Each comes with a beautiful, especially-designed Christmas card identifying the source as the Alternative Gifts Market.

On the third Sunday of Advent, Children’s Center Executive Director Debbie Lickey will spend time with us at 10:15 a.m talking about the busyness of the holiday season that, while joyful, can also include a real possibility of stress in families, especially for our children. Learn more about how stress affects children (and adults!) and practical strategies to manage it. Later, December 16 also marks the reappearance of the all-youth and children cast at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant. An honored and entertaining retelling of Christ’s birth narrative, it includes scripture prophesizing and proclaiming Jesus’s arrival, and traditional carols, hymns and sacred music by Britten. The Cherub Choir, Children’s Choir, and Youth Choir make our joyful noise.

Following the Pageant, Rector John McCard and Cynthia McCard invite the attendees to an open house at their



The Alternative Gifts Market at Advent last year.

residence around the corner on West Avenue. Until 8:00 p.m., they will be receiving visitors for punch and Christmas goodies. Come one, come all.

The next evening, on Monday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. you may want to attend the service called Our Christmas Hope, celebrated specifically for people who may find the holiday season has dark nights of the soul, full of struggle with life challenges, grief and loss of years past and present. You are invited to our special candlelit service of hymns and prayers for healing.

The final Sunday of Advent features the Advent Music Forum, presented by Richard Rumble and the Advent Apostles of Soul, a musical extravaganza comprised of members of the Guitar Ensemble, West Gallery Choir and occasional special guests. Come to Valentine Hall at 10:15 and get in the right spirit with this concert and sing along.

Advent at St. James’s has lots for everyone and something special for you. Please mark your calendar for the events and services that will best help you look forward to the arrival of the Savior.

Earthly Matters

by Monica Lewis
Stewards of the Earth Committee

Solutions for Paper Clutter!

Recently, Penny Gugino told me a tip about junk mail. Yes, you can put it in your recycle bin as soon as you get it, but it is better to stop receiving it so that it doesn’t arrive in your mailbox in the first place. She directed me to the “Catalog Choice” website that contacts the companies and requests that they take you off their lists. Their free service works for mail-order catalogs from popular companies and for the coupon packs that have cluttered my mailbox. DMAchoice, a similar service from the Direct Marketing Association, charges two dollars for each registration. OptOutPrescreen.com specifically targets the preapproved credit card offers that are such a nuisance and an identity-theft risk. As you start receiving holiday catalogs this season, save the back cover which usually has your address label and customer codes, which you will need to refer to when you fill out the forms on Catalog Choice. Be aware that it may take up to 3 months for your request to be processed. It may seem easier to toss the unwanted mail, but take the time to unsubscribe, especially for mail addressed to previous residents or for recipients who are deceased. Let the Post Office help you as well: if appropriate, write “Return to sender; addressee no longer at this address” and put it back out for the mail carrier to pick up. Think of the benefit of letting corporations know that their advertising dollars are not being well spent. Resources – namely, paper, which comes from trees – could be put to better use. Let’s keep those trees growing and sequestering carbon instead of sending them to paper mills.

I’m glad Penny and I spoke. When one Doer tells another “how to do it,” we can do a lot of good!

Stewardship



*Suzanne Hall
Director of Stewardship and
Development*

Music at St. James's has been integral to Ian Townsend's growth

Sixteen-year-old Ian has always had an aptitude for music. He began in the Cherub Choir when he was six, and has been a part of every tier of the music program at St. James's since then. In fact, he progressed through all four branches of the choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass! Ian also studied piano, but after his teacher moved the stage was set for a new experience.

He and his mother, Karen, took the St. James's organ tour with Casey Dunaway, who not only plays our Fisk Opus 112 occasionally, but is its main technician. Seeing all the parts of the pipe works and registers fueled Ian's interest. Then he took another tour of the organ. Virginia Whitmire and his mother noticed his keen interest and suggested that he take lessons from Casey.

"My first organ lesson was pretty overwhelming," Ian admitted, "but it got better after that."

"My dad and I built a three-tiered keyboard setup at home with a pedal board, and I have it hooked up to my computer. I have software that makes the music sound like organ music, so I can practice. It's pretty neat."

When you play the organ, the shoes are important. "You need shoes with leather bottoms, but they have to be really broken in, so you can feel the pedals. Playing in your socks works, but it's not very professional."

"Recently I've been rehearsing a 13-minute Cesar Franck composition

that is very technically interesting," he continued. "Music is a big part of my life. I also like math, German, and the STEM side of things."

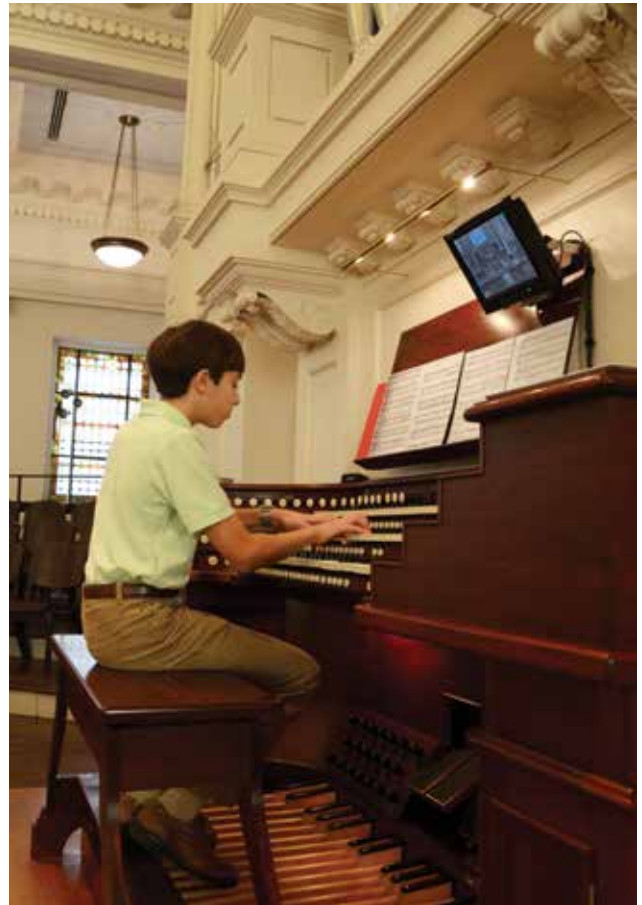
This year, Ian is taking his junior year away from Maggie Walker Governor's School to study in a Gymnasium school in Berlin, Germany.

"In my application, I asked to be placed with a faith-based family who attend a church where I might be able to play the organ," he said with a smile.

The more givers give, the more doers can do.

Peace and abundant blessings,

Suzanne



The Interview

For over a year, the Art & Spirit Committee has been hosting artists in our Gibson Hall Atrium, where a special display system has been installed to facilitate these gallery exhibitions. The latest exhibit is work of Whitney Knapp Bowditch and the Chimes spoke with her, as well as Paulette Pullen, recently about the show and initiative.

C: How did you come to this opportunity to be curated in our space?

WKB: Since I began worshipping at St. James's, I have enjoyed becoming acquainted with other parishioner artists through their work in the Atrium Gallery. I was honored and delighted when Paulette Pullen reached out to me with the opportunity to exhibit my work at Suzanne Hall's suggestion.

C: Tell us about your work, how you approach your subject matter.

WKB: I am a landscape painter, focusing on skies, seascapes, and places that hold personal significance for me. I work primarily with oils, and I use both brushes and knives on a variety of surfaces. Some of my work has a soft and atmospheric quality, while other pieces are heavily textured and saturated. I vary my approach according to my subject and the feeling I hope to evoke from a given painting.

C: What draws you to this pursuit and inspires you to be creative?



*Gloria Prevatt, Paulette Pullen
and Whitney Knapp Bowditch*

WKB: I paint to convey my awe of Creation — the land, the sea, and the sky. Art provides a unique avenue through which to explore this vast and inspiring subject. I also paint as an act of humble reverence and prayer. This requires me to shift from merely seeing to critically observing. This interpretation process of the landscape has increased my understanding of my environment. From a more technical standpoint, I explore perceptual elements while constructing an image. I hope that my work will always reflect my subject, while my aesthetic choices suggest a unique interpretation.

C: What do you hope visitors to the gallery get from viewing your work?

WKB: Just as I have had an insight into other parishioners through their work, I aim to hint at something spiritual within my work. When I depict the vastness and strength of the ocean or the drama of the changing sky, my intention is always to suggest the work of the Creator. I'm particularly thrilled to exhibit at the Atrium Gallery in a space where the viewers presumably share my faith. I hope that my paintings will convey my recognition of God's strength and presence in all of nature.

C: What is the purpose of the Gibson Hall Atrium Art Gallery initiative?

PP: St. James's is blessed with many talented artists and the airy and light-filled Atrium is the perfect space to exhibit their works for the enjoyment of all parishioners and visitors. The gallery not only celebrates the gifts of our artists, but illustrates God's presence in what they create.

C: Can parishioners acquire any of these works that are displayed?

PP: Many artists are offering their works for sale. Information in the gallery explains how to purchase these pieces of art. Artists contribute a percentage of sales to St. James's, which is used to further enhance the interiors of our church and common spaces.

Whitney Bowditch's work is on display in the Gibson Hall Atrium through January 3.





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