



November 2015 Steeple Notes

Newsletter for the family and friends
of St. James' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Elizabeth Eisenstadt-Evans, Interim Rector

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop Provisional

*Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ~ Psalm 146:1*

Sunday Service Schedule

7:45am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Contemporary

Nursery care during
the 9am and 11am services

10:00am

Fellowship and Coffee Hour
in Bartholomew Hall

10:00am

Sunday School Classes

11:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Traditional

Daughters of the King

The Daughters meet the third Wednesday each month at noon in Bartholomew Hall. Bring your lunch and join us for prayer, discussion, and fellowship. A wonderful opportunity to learn more about who we are and what we do for St. James'



From the Interim Rector...

THE BORDERLESS BOUNDARIES OF A MISSIONARY CHURCH

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47, NIV).

Don't get me wrong. I love the Downingtown area – the Victorian twin homes, the alpaca farms, the meandering creek that threads the village that we live in, the venerable high school my son attends that has been repurposed for a new generation of scholars.

The St. James Church sanctuary itself, with its numerous memorial inscriptions and plaques, is a mute testament to the fidelity of many generations of individuals and families, each of whom brought their own particular story to the church. It is a place in which we enter on a Sunday morning and feel comfortable, at home, nurtured.

That's a good thing.

But sometimes I wish we were more jazzed about this whole Christian gig – that the excitement of the Gospel message of new life and redemption had more freshness, more immediacy to it. It doesn't take long for movements to become institutionalized and lose some of their radical edge.

Arguably within decades, and certainly within centuries, the communal structure of the early Christians gave way to a more hierarchical, top-down approach to worship, outreach and ministry. While it's easy to see why that might have been necessary for the survival of the church as an institution, we lost some things along the way. One of those is the sense that we are a church as focused on reaching those on the outside as we are on ministering to those on the inside.

Reaching those on the borders and margins as well as tending to our own is important for practical reasons – otherwise, the church will not grow. But it's also crucial for another reason – that's what Jesus wants us to do.

With the advent of the internet and access to national and global news that might once have taken days to reach us, the scope of our mission has widened. Recently my heart has been heavy with the plight of the Syrian refugees, and I have been wondering how to make a small difference in this international tragedy. You also may have a place in which there is a burden on your spirit.

What is pushing you out of your comfort zone, nagging at you, speaking to you through the words and in the eyes of strangers? Perhaps...perhaps, it may be something holy.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH,

We have enjoyed five wonderful years working with the delightful children and dedicated volunteers of Vacation Bible School. Now, as we explore other ways to serve the Lord, we have decided to step down as directors of VBS.

We are reaching out to the congregation to find new directors. If you choose to do so, you won't be alone! We'll still be participating, here to share everything we've learned and continuing as volunteers in 2016.

If you consider this ministry, you might want to think about co-directing. Although we had not met before VBS, we became good friends through the years we worked together.

If you would like to be part of the spiritual growth of children and have a lot of fun doing so, please contact us or Luann. We'll be happy to answer questions! If you let us know by early January of 2016, we can join you as you select a brand new program of your choice. The professionally written programs are great, chock full of many ideas, activities and lessons.

We hope you'll consider this wonderful ministry.

Sincerely,
Judy Benne (610)-350-8437 sbenne@dejazzd.com
Gail Gilbert (484)-883-4940 gailsusanstuart@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club meets at Panera Bread in Exton (*the Giant shopping center on Swedesford Road*) the third Friday of each month at 11am. New members are always welcomed. Contact Peg Leister at peggyleis@aol.com for more information. We will be reading the following books:

November 20

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION IN TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

If you are interested in pursuing confirmation or reception, whether you are a teenager or an adult, please let our interim rector, Elizabeth or Luann in the church office know. It does 't matter whether you are 15 or 50 – this is a great opportunity to officially join our denomination and parish community.

Rector's email is Bellettrelliz@gmail.com.
I look forward to hearing from you!



We are immersed in the fall festivities and are selling quite an amount of Halloween and fall decorations. Although we are still accepting costumes until the end of October, we will start dare I say Christmas at

the end of the month. Once again the seasons are rushed in so many of the stores and we have to be able to keep up with the demand. We have a lot of requests from donors to drop off these items and have had to defer until after Halloween.

This also gives us the opportunity to empty the storage room of these holiday items. We can barely maneuver to retrieve the boxes so it will be a relief to have some elbow room.

We want to thank Linda Scaffidi for her driving assistance to Paoli and back to pick up the items from the Palm Tree. Linda has a working conflict and will not be able to continue this helpful job for the thrift job. We really appreciated her assistance.

We are now of course looking for a volunteer to fill Linda's shoes on Mondays. If you are able and willing to contribute some time please call Luann to get specifics or Anna at the thrift shop (610-873-7812) We all thank you

THE LORD'S PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP!

The Lord's Pantry distributes 350 Thanksgiving Baskets every year to our less fortunate neighbors. These baskets include traditional thanksgiving dinner items, appetizer items, breakfast foods and desserts.

See the list posted on our Lord's Pantry shopping cart to find out what they need for Thanksgiving. Donate your FREE turkey certificate that you earned from your supermarket. Simply put your register certificate in an envelope and drop in cart.

On Saturday, November 21 at 10 am, the Lord's Pantry and the community will be coming together to pack the Thanksgiving Baskets. This takes place at Downingtown West High School. If you and your family would like to be a part of this fulfilling outreach, sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board or email Beth at SJCSundayschool2@verizon.net

November Birthdays

Michele Holman	November 3
Luann McIlvaine	November 3
Jack Mea	November 4
Sam Benne	November 5
George Fritze Sr	November 5
Tim Gemmell	November 7
Jared Shea	November 7
Patty Edge	November 9
Carly Sharamatew	November 10
Ranee Shipley	November 12
George Hotton	November 14
Rich Snyder	November 15
George Zeiner	November 15
Brett Leister	November 18
Rob Deitcher	November 20
Dante D'Andrea	November 21
Glenn Fredericksen	November 22
Kathy Voltz	November 22
Conor Feeley	November 23
Megan Heurich	November 24
Darlene Kimber	November 26
Rosa Butler	November 28
Jane Dalziel	November 28
Greg Lewis	November 28
Carol D'Andrea	November 29
Rachel Wallace	November 29

November Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of

November 1

Maurice Felton
Kenneth s. Miller (Voltz)
Eunice & Raymond Hildebeitel

November 8

Elizabeth M. Whiteman
Edward Schmid
Jim Craig

November 15

Chester E. Whiting Jr.

November 22

Jacob V. Edge & Edmond Cosgriff

November 29

Richard & Jane McConnell

Altar Flowers can be given in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one. Please fill in the date you would like in the Altar Guild Flower Book located on the corner table passed the main entrance. Envelopes for payment (\$45) are next to the book.

MORE FROM ELIZABETH

I was thinking that perhaps some in the parish might be interested in what I do with the rest of my professional life. This is a link to the first story in a series on contemplative nuns.

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/trends/powerful-silence-somewhat-hidden-witness-american-contemplative-orders-32031>

Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans is a religion columnist for Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., as well as a freelance writer. She is a longtime book reviewer for the Philadelphia Inquirer and a contributor to Religion News Service and the National Catholic Reporter. Her work has been featured in the Huffington Post and The Washington Post, as well as other nationally-known publications, including Publisher's Weekly.



It is important to notify the Rector or the parish administrator (610-269-1774) when you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to give the church information. Private messages may be left for the Rector at 610-873-1065. After hours pastoral emergencies: 610-306-7059. Do you need help with meals?

Our Ministry of Meals can help. Contact the Rector, parish administrator or Mandy Watson at 610-518-0399.

HUDSON L. VOLTZ, ESQUIRE
JANET J. SATTERTHWAITE, ESQUIRE

JOY L. VALANIA, ESQUIRE
HEIDI T. NOVINO, PARALEGAL

HUDSON L. VOLTZ, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Small Business ~ Family Law ~ Estate Planning & Probate ~ Real Estate Law
THE LAIRD PROFESSIONAL BUILDING 610-518-9500
110 HOPEWELL ROAD, SUITE 200 Fax 610-518-5316
DOWNTOWN, PA 19335-1047 E-mail: voltzlaw@comcast.net
Mr. Voltz is a member; serving the St. James' Community
for Real Estate, Family, Business and Estate matters for the past 20 years

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STEWARDSHIP Celebration

**Please Note!!
Only 2 services on Nov. 15**

Stewardship Events

November 1 ~ All Saints Sunday

Nancy Cianfrani will be our Lay Witness at all three services

November 8 Commitment Sunday

Leaflet Witness

Pledges presented at the altar at all three services

November 15 ~ Celebration Sunday

Two Services and Special Fellowship Gathering in Bartholomew Hall following the 10am service

7:45am ~ Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00am ~ Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional
Nursery care during the 10am services

NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Lots of things going on property-wise but first a big note of thanks to Carol McConnell and the "Lay Weeders" for all of the lovely flowers and plants that have been growing and blooming around the church this year.

Apologies to the Thrift Shop and their patrons for the disturbance around their entrance a few weeks ago, but we had to repair the concrete that was breaking up underneath the landing at the side door. All fixed.

Now the news. Thanks to the contributors to the Capital Improvement Fund, we now have enough money to make improvements to the handicapped ramp, the sidewalk, and the very ugly looking window wells. Included in the new work will be a roof with skylights over the ramp and a pergola type cover at the bottom. Along the sidewalk will be the same type bollard lights that we have at the new side entrance. Keep a lookout for a picture of the new project which we will post in the hallway.

And also, we are going to re-do the side walk along the back of the parish hall and repair the steps leading into the rear doors. No more cinder blocks! This is being funded partially through the (AMMF) Anna McI. Miller Maintenance Fund and the St. James pre-school. Thank you pre-school!

We expect the work to start in the early part of November and expect to be done by Christmas.

The Property Committee



Rector

The Rev. Elizabeth E, Interim Rector
sjcrector@verizon.net

Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

Luann McIlvaine
sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

Christian Education Coordinator

Beth Sharamatew
sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

Parish Office ~ 610-269-1774

409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335
Monday - Thursday: 9am to 1pm, Closed Fridays

Thrift Shop ~ 610-873-7812

Monday - Thursday: 10:00am - 3:00pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays each month: 9am - 1pm

St. James Preschool ~ 610-269-0525

www.stjamespreschool.com

Vestry Members - Term 2016

Bob Yuninger
Tim Gemmell
Bruce Shipley
Matt Wagner

Vestry Members - Term 2017

Laura Harting
Peggy Leister
Dick McConnell
Ron Meacham

Vestry Members - Term 2018

Judy Benne
Rob Deitcher
Jack Edmonds
JoAnn Mattia