



# Steeple Notes ~ June 2017

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

The Rev. John W. Symonds, Rector  
The Rt. Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutierrez, Bishop

Out of the mouths of infants and children \*  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.

Psalm 8:2



### Summer Worship Schedule

Begins June 11th

7:45am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional  
Nursery care during 9:30 am service

10:30am

Fellowship and Coffee Hour in  
Bartholomew Hall



VBS 2017! Bible Blast to the Past

June 19-23 6:00-8:30 pm

For Ages 4-11

Adult Volunteers Are Needed!

### From Fr. John

My “vocational” side has me thinking a great deal about the coming of Pentecost, and our role as Christians in believing that the Holy Spirit will enable us to take Jesus’ ministry and mission into the world. The beginning of summer is always a hugely transformational time within the life of the Church. My “personal” side has me thinking more and more like it is almost Christmas. And that is because of the expectation of a newborn!

June 4<sup>th</sup> marks the Day of Pentecost, the time that the Holy Spirit goes forth from the apostles into the world following Jesus’ revealing of the same at the Ascension. The Day of Pentecost, also the traditional “birthday of the church,” and the beginning of the longest church season, is identified liturgically with red as the color denotes the fiery nature of The Holy Spirit. Following that dynamic genesis of the season, it quickly turns green as “Ordinary Time” sets in, and the growth of the church comes about through its great mission.

And, what is that mission, you may be asking? Sharing Jesus’ ministry, teachings, prayers, and sacraments with others. We ended the Easter Season and celebrated the Ascension with this charge, as Christ said it will be so through the Advocate and Comforter, The Holy Spirit. More will come about through The Holy Spirit, than Jesus could ever have done on his own. (Jesus’ words, not mine!)

We have many important, missional questions, considerations, and opportunities before us at St. James’, just as so many parishes do. What better time than summer to discern where and how (and oftentimes *through whom!*) our own mission will be revealed? This June alone, we are planning for two Baptisms, three Confirmations, new Summer Hours for the St. James’ Thrift Shop and a new time of year to of-

*(Rector continued on page 3)*



## **CONGRATULATION TO OUR GRADUATES**

**Emma Wagner**

Downingtown West High School

Spending a year in Central America doing service work

Will enter West Chester University in fall 2018

**Marisa D'Andrea**

Graduated from Maine College of Art (MECA) with her BFA on May 13

## **FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM JANICE AND JIM KELLER**

Dear Friends,

Jim and I were overwhelmed with the outpouring of good wishes for our journey to a new life in Florida. We would like to thank Fr. John for his prayer, Ed Engle for his kind words, Forever Endeavor – for everything, and Linda Scaffidi, George Fritze and the Rite 13 class for hosting our special coffee hour – the cake and other goodies were delicious!

St. James will always have a special place in my heart. I spent a summer looking for a new church, visiting several Episcopal churches, and even other denominations, but nothing felt right. I came to the 9:00 service at St. James and when I left, Father Tim recognized I was a visitor, asked my name and directed me to sign the visitor's book – something that had not happened at any other church I visited. I came back the next week, and he remembered me. I came back the third week, and was joined in the pew by George Fritze, who made sure I got to coffee hour, and introduced me to others. That was it – a year later, I was the “snack lady” for Sunday School, the following year, I was on the Vestry, and shortly thereafter joined Forever Endeavor.

St. James showed me what it truly means to “belong” to a church. It is much more than worshipping together each week. It means being willing to be part of something bigger than yourself. It means being there for your parish family - sharing in their joys and providing support through life's challenges. I will never forget what the members of this community have done for me. You prayed with me, and for me, through difficult times. You joined me in the simple pleasure of walking through nature on pleasant Saturday mornings, and you brought the joy of music back to my life. I have found friendships here that I know will continue. I believe it was in God's plan for me to find St. James and I will always be grateful.

*Sincerely,  
Janice Keller*

(Continued from page 1)

fer Vacation Bible School. While the full chancel choir and Forever Endeavor will be winding down, as will Sunday Church School offerings, many other ministries will certainly be ongoing (think Outreach, think Property, think Finance & Administration). And others, will just begin taking flight (think year-round Stewardship, think pilgrimage and mission trips for youth and families). This June, my wife and our family will be in the final stages of planning for another “birth-day,” that of course being a new baby!

Pentecost is the primary season of considering the Church’s mission. What areas/ministries within St. James’ do you perceive as needing more support? And, the corollary question is, what may you be seeking within your own spiritual journey that can assist you in traveling farther? Please offer all of this to God in prayer. And, this month, we ask for your ongoing prayers for our family’s expected nativity. It is truly humbling to be sharing the vocational and the personal together in that, all new life comes about through God’s Blessing, through that grace exhibited in His Son, Jesus, and the eternal gift of the Holy Spirit. Now as we welcome the Holy Spirit once again this Pentecost, let also be reminded where and how (*and through whom!*) Love and Truth have their meaning, and how through God’s constant Invitation calls us to take Jesus’ Gospel into the world...

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” [John 20:21-22 NRSV]*

Fr. John+



### **Blow Your Own Horn (with the St. James’ Choir)**

Do you play the trumpet? Would you like to play an occasional piece – maybe an introduction to a hymn or a trumpet prelude—with our choir? We would love to hear from you about making beautiful music together! Contact Jill Lewis at [jlewis88keys@aol.com](mailto:jlewis88keys@aol.com) or Dick McConnell, at [sgtmac69@verizon.net](mailto:sgtmac69@verizon.net)



### **HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER**

It is important to notify the rector or parish administrator when you or a family member is in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are no longer able to give the church information. **Please let us know when you are in the hospital.** After hours pastoral emergencies, our rector can be reached at 610-314-5482.

### **Do you need help with meals?**

Our Ministry of Meals can help. Contact the parish administrator or Mandy Watson at [mwatson0207@icloud.com](mailto:mwatson0207@icloud.com)

## ALTAR FLOWERS ON SUNDAY



Did you ever wonder what happens to the altar flowers after Sunday's services? St. James Altar Guild has a group of parishioners who deliver the flowers after the 11:00 service to St. James attendees who are ill, celebrating a birthday, new baby or home, or contributors who donated flowers in memory or thanksgiving for a loved one. I am appealing to all services, but most prominently to the 11:00 service attendees. Can you find it in your heart to see another parishioner enjoy the colorful flowers from the St. James altar? As one who has taken part in this outreach, it is rewarding to see the smiles of joy when the flowers are presented.

Our delivery schedule is firm through June 30, and I will be working on July through December for 2017. Luann has instituted a dynamite plan which is most helpful. If this ministry appeals to you, please contact Jean Frank at [jfrank228@comcast.net](mailto:jfrank228@comcast.net) or 484-288-8184 and get yourself on the schedule. You won't be sorry that you did.

## AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you to all of our donors, attendees and volunteers. It was nice to see so many new members join in the festivities. We could not have had a successful auction without you. Thank you once again to Carol McConnell for her dedication to this ministry. The auction not only serves the financial health of the parish but also allows us to come together in fellowship as we grow in our faith to help others through our outreach ministries in the greater community and as we reach in to help and support each other.

The financial results are total net income of just over \$19,600 with \$1,555 (*funded by the sale of Bobbie Carpenter's famous fudge, baked by her daughter, Peggy*) going to support youth activities.



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HOST COFFEE HOUR

Contact our Coffee Hour Coordinator, Diane Brown at [diane.brown305@gmail.com](mailto:diane.brown305@gmail.com) with questions and for more information

As host of coffee hour, you need to bring half & half and any of these suggested goodies: crackers, pretzels, cheese, fruit, cookies, baked goods, mini bagels, donuts. You also need to set up, make the coffee and clean up. Pair up with a co-host and split the duties!

Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway, just waiting for you to volunteer!

# Happy Birthday!

Kevin Prendergast	June 1
Jessica Prendergast	June 2
Leah Umile	June 3
Frank Torelli	June 4
Janice Keller	June 5
Karen Samuelson	June 7
Nolan Clauser	June 9
Charlie Kimber	June 9
Precious Turay	June 10
Olivia Halpin	June 11
Ryan Halpin	June 11
Andy Leister	June 11
Tim Edge	June 15
Carys Wallace	June 15
Cathy Dazio	June 16
Mary Mattia	June 16
Macayla Symonds	June 17
Charlotte Barger	June 18
Carol McConnell	June 18
Andrew Tritz 4th	June 18
Nicole Kosits	June 21
Pat Miller	June 22
Barb DiOttavio	June 23
Nathaniel Johnson	June 23
Zoey Lindner	June 23
Gwen Settle	June 23
Caleb Deitcher	June 24
Megan Craig	June 25
Amanda McCann	June 25
Ed Engel Jr.	June 28
Sis Lonsdale	June 28
Seth Adams	June 29
Chuck Hess	June 30



*Altar Flowers  
are offered in loving memory of  
and thanksgiving for*

**June 4**  
*John Lonsdale*

**June 11**  
*Mary Cross  
Scott Smyth*

**June 18**  
*William Yearsley and Gwenn Yearsley Voss  
William and Joan Louise Van Roden*

*Altar Flowers can be given each Sunday (except during  
Lent) 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 table outside the Chapel.  
Envelopes for payment (\$50) are next to the book.*

## Support Group Meetings In Bartholomew Hall

Monday	7:00pm	Monday Message Open AA
Tuesday:	8:00pm	NA
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month	8:00pm	District AA
Friday:	8:00pm	AA and AI Anon
Saturday:	6:30pm	AA

All church or preschool committees/groups need to contact the parish office to schedule use of the building

## Free is Good

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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](mailto: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

## Thrift Shop Hours through June 17th

Tuesday and Thursday ~ 2pm - 6pm

Saturday ~ 9am to 5pm

## Thrift Shop Summer Hours: June 19<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday-Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Closed Saturdays

We are once again organizing the shop to prepare for the spring /summer season. We were able to sell quite a bit of Easter paraphernalia and concluded April with our bag sale to make a fresh start and sell off the last of the winter items. We took the opportunity to dispose of many items that had been unsellable and shipped them off to the Mennonites who do our pick-ups. Want to thank Judy and Sam Benne for hauling quite a few cartons to the shed and trash and putting their muscles to good use.

We now have put out many wonderful summer items which include shorts, capris and various lengths of summer tops. We also have a selection of evening wear for those who have not yet purchased prom dresses, as well as shoes for the complete outfit. For the gentlemen there is a good selection of shorts and shirts.

We are looking forward to the summer where we will have changes in the hours and days of operation. We are going back to our previous schedule but will notify everyone to the exact time and start date. This will hopefully increase our revenue as well as our donations and enhanced customer traffic.

Now that yard sale season is here and some of you will be purging your household, please check with the thrift shop before making donations to find out about space availability at the shop for your items.

*Once again thank you for your support.*

*Anna Filoromo*

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## SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 11TH

### Sunday Service Schedule

7:45am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional

*Nursery care during the 9:30am service*

10:30am - Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall

#### STAFF

##### **Rector**

The Rev. John W. Symonds  
sjcrector@verizon.net

##### **Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper**

Luann McIlvaine  
sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

##### **Organist**

Jill Lewis

##### **Sexton**

Jack Mea

**Sunday Nursery:** Lauren Kety

##### **Parish Office ~ 610-269-1774**

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

##### **St. James' Thrift Shop ~ 610-873-7812**

**Co-Managers:** Shirley Tompkin and Anna Filoromo  
Tuesday and Thursday ~ 2pm - 6pm  
Saturday ~ 9am to 5pm

##### **St. James Preschool ~ 610-269-0525**

**Co-Directors:** Suzanne Diodato and Johanna Ugglia  
www.stjamespreschool.com

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2018**

Judy Benne  
Rob Deitcher  
Jack Edmonds  
JoAnn Mattia

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2019**

Rebecca Barger  
Mary Anne Feeley  
Tom Hudecheck  
Carol Ryan

#### **Vestry Members - Term 2020**

Judy Craig  
Susan Edmonds  
Tim Gemmell  
Cathy Weisser