



The Epistle

November 2019

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

A community growing in Christ, called to worship, learn, and serve.

3225 East Minnehaha Parkway • Minneapolis, MN 55417 • 612-724-3425 • www.stjamesotp.org • stjamesotp@comcast.net

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From Fr. William Heisley

Memory: A Good and Holy Thing

I've been thinking about writing a sermon about remembering for this Sunday, our celebration of All Saints. Then it hit me: I forgot to write this piece for the Epistle. It was due six days ago. Just plain forgot.

Memory is a funny thing. Sometimes we remember with great clarity minor details of an event long ago. And other times we can't remember our best friend's name. For instance, I remember seeing a Baltimore Oriole sitting on the telephone wire outside my sixth great classroom as if it were yesterday. But when I'm in a social setting and need to introduce two acquaintances who haven't yet met, I blank out. I can't remember their names. Period. Memory is a funny thing.

We've been circling our proverbial St. James wagons around memory lately. Beth Harvey and Neal Cuthbert have been diligently working on selecting and framing a large and fascinating display of photos from our past in the Gallery. Look for it. It's all so that we can remember.

We've been telling each other stories about the past of our community and we've laughed a lot and grieved a bit. Much more of this will come in the next months. Memory is a good and holy thing.

And since memory is a good and holy thing we set one day each year aside to specifically remember not only the general wealth of our faith in Jesus, but also to remember the presence of our forbearers in the faith: parents, partners, friends, idols, leaders, children...Remembering every one of them is holy. But why?

Holiness is about God. Our memories of those gone before us draw us to know that we have seen God in them. Seen God loving



them and loving through them, forgiving them, and suffering with them.

God's holiness is shown in the saints. Saints are holy people. Each of us becomes a saint, a holy person, a child of God, in Holy Baptism, and we are set on a course in life and through life that involves God's blessing us and Jesus walking with us and the Spirit guiding us. We sin, but we are forgiven and reunited with God's love because of God's holiness.

And we are made a part of community. In our case it is God's people called the community of St. James on the Parkway. And St. James is a part of all sorts of larger communities. We are a people who belong, because of God's holiness.

As we head face forward into our celebration of All Saints do it with eyes wide open. See the holiness of the saints who have gone before reflected in the faces of our community. And celebrate with deep passion that we are not only loved but also that we can rejoice in memory that reminds us that God is in us and with us and is defining our future, at this moment.

Membership

Who's a member? Who can Vote?

St. James Bylaws define **MEMBERS** as anyone whose Baptism is duly recorded in parish records. Watch the Action Wall in the Narthex for an updated list of members. Check with Fr. William if your record needs to be updated.

QUALIFIED VOTERS are members who are at least 16 years old who have received Holy Communion at St. James at least three times in the year preceding an election. No one is keeping a formal record of who receives communion at St. James, but check with Fr. William if you have doubts about whether you meet this qualification.

Our Bylaws were amended in September to define a procedure by which qualified voters may **CAST ABSENTEE BALLOTS**. Watch for more information as the Annual Meeting of January 26 draws near.



Transitions

Every one a leader; every one a follower

By Ruth Anne Olson,
Transition Coordinator

“It’s an incredible gift,” Max Athorn said to me recently, referring to Kerry Nelson’s service as senior warden. “Her willingness, as a relative newcomer, to dive 100% into this difficult and emotional time at St. James. Her confident voice and steadiness that we’re all benefitting from.”

Max’ comments cause me to reflect on the sources of leadership at St. James in the 31 years that Tony and I have been members. I wouldn’t dare try to list all the names for, in reality, to come to St. James means to be a leader. One way or another, every one of us has found something we love, and has figured out how to

engage others to make those things happen. Every one of us has led; every one of us has followed. In the process we’ve leaned on and learned from one another.

Maybe that’s one reason it’s so hard to leave our building, for we don’t want even a single one of our relationships end.

If I have one wish for the eight months ahead, it’s that we all give generously to St. James. That we continue to figure out when to lead and to follow, to give and to receive, to be vulnerable and to be strong. What a gift it will be.

To Kerry, “thank you.” To everyone, “thank you.”

December *Epistle*

Submission Deadline:
November 25

Send submissions to:
Ruth Anne Olson
olson248@gmail.com

Publication Date:
December 1

Comments or suggestions are always welcome:

Content: Ruth Anne Olson
Design & Publication:
Beth Harvey



Service

Summer opportunities

By Anne Scheible

Three years ago, St. James on the Parkway and the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) partnered to set up a community garden now named the Giving Garden. St. James provided the garden space and NENA provided the supplies and materials. A team of dedicated volunteers has contributed hours of labor to

grow produce for local food shelves.

The 2019 growing season was a great success for the Giving Garden. We delivered 510.5 lbs. of produce to the Minnehaha Food Shelf and another 31 lbs. to organizations for neighborhood seniors and veterans. Food shelves have trouble providing much needed fresh vegetables to their clients and the Giving Garden's produce helps to fill this gap. The

production this year exceeded last year's total by almost 60 lbs. Tomatoes, greens, lettuce, green beans, squash, peppers, pea pods, onions and beets were planted this year. The vegetables were chosen based on client surveys done in the early spring.

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2020 growing season, contact Anne Scheible at:

annebillscheible@gmail.com

From the Treasurer John Heintz

Financial Report: September 30, 2019

Through three quarters of the year, our budget is roughly where we expected it to be in total. Pledge payments were about \$5 thousand below budget, while other income was about \$2 thousand above budget.

Total expenses ran \$4,700 lower than budget. Result: an end-of-September operating deficit of \$13,797, about \$1,600 better than expected.

An unexpected need to replace a furnace (that heats our Mandala tenant's classroom spaces) will worsen our expense picture in the final quarter of the year. It looks likely that the cash reserve to cover a deficit will be further eroded by year-end. Think warm thoughts to keep utility bills down and keep those pledges up to date to help us finish the year close to our budget. Here is a budget summary:

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	over / (under)
Pledged Income	\$92,613	\$87,518	(\$5,095)
Other Income	\$50,216	\$52,202	(\$1,986)
Total Income	\$142,829	\$139,720	(\$3,109)
Expenses	\$153,517	\$153,517	(\$4,718)
Net	(\$15,405)	(\$13,797)	\$1,608

Non-budget Restricted Funds: Non-budget restricted balances on September 30 totaled \$20,305, as follows: Mary Anderson Better Space \$112; Piotrowski-Music \$693; Piotrowski-Altar \$1,754; Haiti \$13,987; Tri-Faith \$3,638; Priest's Discretion \$121.

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

An opportunity to build

By Louise Robinson, on behalf of
the St. James Haiti Committee

Are there any modestly handy folks out there that might be interested in a trip to Bigonet, Haiti next winter/spring to help our partners re-build the Bonne Nouvelle church? Some of our friends at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland, Minnesota have expressed interest in this idea, our friends in Bigonet enthusiastically embrace it, and we wonder if there might be folks at St. James interested as well?

In recent Epistle articles we have shared news of the progress Bonne Nouvelle is making toward re-building their church—a lovely building destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. The community has rebuilt their homes, the school, and now FINALLY can turn their attention to rebuilding their church. The Haiti Committee has supported them by sending small amounts of money—all raised from sources outside of the St. James parish, including Trinity Lutheran.

Ideally, the group would consist of several folks that are handy with tools and construction and could get in the trenches and help with the heavy loads. The group would be augmented by a few folks that are willing to help with supporting roles, possibly preparing meals, visiting the school, or simply continuing to build friendships. All of our visits over the past 10 years have focused the latter—the important work of intentionally building friendships to support our partnership. This would be the first time we have gone down to focus on a project, and work with our friends with a specific goal.

Anyone interested? Please talk with Louise Robinson (612-325-9348) or Kurt Hall (612-202-6729). Thanks!



This page: 2018 visit to Bonne Nouvelle



Page 5: Bonne Nouvelle rebuilds their church, destroyed by the earthquake in 2010.





Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM Worship: Sanctuary
9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation: Gallery
10:15 AM PrayGround for kids and youth of all ages:
Sanctuary
10:30 AM Worship: Sanctuary
11:45 AM Coffee & Conversation: Gallery

11/3 See Sunday Schedule
11/6 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
11/10 See Sunday Schedule
11/12 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting: Gallery
11/13 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

11/17 No Sunday Worship at St. James

**Worship at 10:00 AM at
St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
4557 Colfax Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419**

11/18 7:00 PM Haiti Committee: Office

11/20 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

11/21 6:30 PM Yarn Crafters, Gallery
(Info: Debbier582002@yahoo.com)

11/23 10:00 AM Building Work Day

11/24 See Sunday Schedule
1:30 PM Laughing Waters Friends Meeting:
Gallery

11/27 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary



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