



The Epistle

June 2019

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

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Sunday, June 9th All-Parish Meeting @ 9:15 AM Agenda below.

Parish Picnic @ 12 Noon

Chicken will be provided, please bring a potluck dish to share.

Your Vestry has been hard at work and we're eager to share our findings.

Updates

- Parish membership & voting requirements
- Proposed amendment to ECMN Canon Law
- The Big Clean-Up (nee The Big Mess)
- 3-Church Initiative
- Efforts to meet recommendations of MacDonald & Mack Report (from January 2018)

Discussion

- Options for the future of St. James
- Informational handouts will be available on Sunday, June 2.

As always, worship services will be 8:00 and 10:30 AM.

Parish Picnic

- Our yearly parish potluck picnic will follow at 12:00 Noon.
- Chicken will be provided, please bring a potluck dish to share.

From Fr. William Heisley

Our work is to dream

I love that the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is called in German Himmelfahrt. Heaventrip. (This year the Ascension was celebrated on May 30.) But I've never quite felt comfortable talking about it in sermons. Seminaries and commentaries and all sorts of scholars teach that the day is the next step in showing that the Good News of the Resurrected Christ is that He is now available to all persons of all times and of all places. He travels to heaven so that he can be everywhere. And I buy that, but it's

always a challenge for me to speak about it in a way that expresses my feelings of "so what" about the text, the story, the day.

Being this honest with you is not something I've always felt permitted to do in my ministry. I've always worked to help people more firmly base their faith in the deep and beautiful realities of who Jesus is and how Christ reigns for us, now, after the Ascension, in our hearts and beyond in

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Our work is to dream

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the world. But I've spent a lot of time dreaming lately. And I've thought a lot about dreaming. And it seems to me that

the Ascension teaches us to dream in a new way.

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During my current convalescence from back surgery I completed my reading of the seven volumes of C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia. I had never read them before and never really wanted to. But when I was given a boxed set by a St. James member, I decided to see what all the fuss was about. I now know. It's about dreaming.

Yes, the work is deeply imbued with Christian theology, the story of Christianity, and Christian ethics. But it's also about the Christian compulsion to live into the future. We don't often think or talk about that. We tend to look at what was – in ancient history, in modern history, in local history. And we meekly turn our faces and thoughts to what might be, tomorrow, not necessarily in 5, 10 or 100 years. But Aslan, the lion who is the supreme being throughout the tales, does not allow the discussion to turn to the past.

God does not want us to dwell on the past.

God does not want us to dwell on the past. Rather, the Ascension of Jesus launches us over and over into a new and challenging and gradually unfolding future.

It's so difficult, all of this. We sit on the Parkway and struggle to keep our

eyes turned in hope and Christian love to what God is directing us to do/believe/be. But there is still the Big Clean Up and so many other details of our life to organize and volunteer hours are spread thinly already.

But I think that if we simply understand that our work is to dream we will be much better off. Dreams don't require confidence, just imagination.

What might we do that will excite the God within us to joy and a sense of purpose and love?

What might we do that will excite the God within us to joy and a sense of purpose and love? How can we dream about the realities that confine us, in a way that makes them into open doors and windows that free us? How can we bask in the prayer of Jesus in St. John's gospel that ends this way: Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. (John 17:25-26)

How can we, together, dream the Church into the future?

From Senior Warden Ruth Anne Olson

Sneak preview of June 9

Your vestry has been hard at work, and our All-Parish meeting on June 9, @ 9:15 AM, will throw open the door to what we now-know, inviting everyone of St. James to learn about and add to these discussions. Here's a sneak preview.

We'll describe the chances for our staying in our present building.

The first question on most-everyone's mind is whether we can continue life as-is. Because money is a major factor in that decision, we'll distribute income/expense numbers and our trajectory of deficits — both in our operating budget and in maintenance of our building.

A second possibility has been to retain ownership in half our building, and sell the rest. Because our buildings straddle defined lots, city zoning likely prohibits this.

Third is the ongoing hope that

our building might serve as a shared-campus for the 3-Church Initiative. While no decisions have been made, St. James' four representatives on the planning committee report that Living Table United Church of Christ (LT-UCC) and Lake Nokomis Lutheran (LNL) representatives who serve on the larger 12-person Committee, show no intention of naming St. James as the shared site. It's still possible that opinions may shift. But for now it appears that if we move toward this union, we are agreeing to move to LNL.

We'll share what we've learned about selling our property.

We've gotten a rough estimate that our property is worth \$1.2 million ±. It could be sold in-total, or broken into up-to four code-compliant lots. How might such proceeds be

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Sneak preview of June 9

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invested in our continued-life as a community?

One option would be to stay within the 3-Churches development, and use some/all the money to help renovate LNL's building as a shared campus within the 3-Church Initiative.

Second, we might sell three of our lots to a developer, with the proviso they build us a new, smaller church on the fourth.

Third, we might take some/all the money, and enter into partnership (merge???) with another Twin Cities Episcopal Church.

Fourth, a portion of the proceeds could be divided into two "pots" — one to maintain St. James in a leased space, the other to be donated to any/all of our partners-in-service (e.g. Minnehaha Food Shelf, First Nations Kitchen, Bonne Nouvelle in Bigonet, Episcopal Church of Minnesota, etc).

Fifth, we could simply dissolve — each going on our way. But, who would want to do that!

We'll describe what we're doing to create a path for making decisions.

We anticipate three parish meetings in the remaining months of 2019 — one to convey information (June 9), a second to hear and clarify questions, and a third to probe together the inevitably rich-density of our individual and collective ponderings.

Will we be ready to make any decisions at our 2020 Annual Meeting in January? It's too early to know. But anticipating that possibility, the Vestry is making sure that all who consider themselves members of St. James — have every opportunity to meet the provisions for voting, as defined in our By-Laws.

Other News.

At the Annual Meeting in January, I stood for and was elected as Sr. Warden with the proviso that Kerry Nelson would become Sr. Warden in June, upon retirement from her day-job. Within the next month, then, the leadership strength of the parish will expand. On July 1, Kerry will take the helm over the many routine complexities of the parish; my time will focus on guiding the process of looking to the future.

BIG thanks to all who give your time, talent and love to our rich community.

From the Jr. Warden Pat Morley

Heating, gas lines, grounds work and clean up

The Property Committee convened to address the task of replacing the furnace under Chapel Hall. Each member of the committee is getting quotes from Heating/Cooling companies so we'll have four bids. We are not selecting one necessarily, just collecting information to help us make a decision as to how we want to proceed. It is hard to get a feel for what the range will be prior to getting those bids so we are not going to speculate beforehand. Why worry twice?

Centrepont Energy's plan to replace the gas line from the street to the church is expected to begin sometime in June, and I anticipate having specific dates shortly. Coordination with The Big Cleanup may be needed but it is unclear what the City of Minneapolis' response time on our claim will be, so it could be a moot point.

Spring grounds work will continue, weather permitting, on June 22. Our May work day was a little soggy but one silver lining was we were able to take advantage of the presence of the dumpster for The Big Cleanup and tossed a fair amount of accumulated junk from the Education Wing.

Peace be with you. All Praises to Jesus.

July Epistle

Submission Deadline: June 26

Send submissions to:

Ruth Anne Olson olson248@gmail.com

Publication Date: July 1

Comments or suggestions are always welcome:

Content: Ruth Anne Olson

Design & Publication: Beth Harvey

The Big Mess. The Big Cleanup. The Big Wait.

By Neal Cuthbert, Project Manager

Over the past few weeks, things have been moving along with the big clean up. Slowly. Deliberately. But moving step by step.

So far, as we have reported in past communications, the actual sewage has been cleaned up, all materials that could not be cleaned that were soiled by the sewage have been disposed of, and claims have been filed with our insurance company and with the City of Minneapolis. The claim with our insurance company has

a limit of \$50,000 and is covering the costs of the clean-up, the disposal of the contaminated materials, the demolition of the paneling and cabinetry that was also contaminated by the sewage, and the removal of the floor tiling which has to be removed to complete the decontamination because the sewage seeped under the tiling. Sadly, additionally, the floor tiling is asbestos which means it will have to be removed in a careful and proscribed manner to insure the safety of the workers and all who come to St. James. That has all

either happened or is happening and is covered by our current insurance.

The big thing we are waiting for is whether or not the City of Minneapolis will honor and pay for our claim which would provide additional support for further cleanup and any rebuilding. We have the impression we will hear soon, and we have heard a variety of rumors that have given us both hope and dashed those hopes. So we await actual real news and share that with you all. Thanks for your support and interest in this lovely evolving situation!

Love is Alive & Kickin: A final shameless promotion

By Jane Hoffmann

Alive & Kickin is the Twin Cities premiere rock and roll senior ensemble. We also sing a lot of pop music. Okay, so I can hear you say, "What kind of music will I hear at this show?" Glad you asked. Songs include "Love the One You're With," "When a Man Loves a Woman," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and the finale and fan favorite (that also features me!), "Seasons of Love" from the musical, *Rent*. It's one big Love Fest in Bloomington this June, so hurry and order your ticket today to see me in Love is Alive & Kickin!

June 7 – 16, 2019

Bloomington Center for the Arts—
Schneider Theater
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road,
Bloomington, MN 55431

Tickets: 952-563-8575
or AliveandKickinMN.org

Adults: \$34; Seniors/Students: \$30

3-Church Initiative Update for May

By Stacey Athorn

We met again with David Raymond, churchfuture.com consultant, to review his preliminary proposal of what coaching us through this transition to a shared campus would look like. His proposal includes five steps, beginning with determining the facility needs of all three churches, determining the feasibility of our existing buildings as a shared campus space and ultimately supporting us with the grieving process of the inevitable change.

We are generally in support of his proposal, but are asking Raymond to provide budgeting estimates for each step of the process and a re-assessment point, at which time we will determine the viability of this option for the St. James community.

At St. James Annual Meeting last January, the congregation supported the allocation of \$5,000 for the purpose of creating architectural drawings in the year 2019. At the time of this request, the understanding was

that these drawing would be done for St. James on the Parkway.

Through our preliminary work with Raymond, we have come to understand that this request was premature and limiting to the scope of work that must be accomplished before any drawings can be done. Most importantly, recognizing that "the work" might be actually be focused on another site, instead of St. James, rendering the \$5,000 useless to the committee.

We would like to retract the request of \$5,000 for the purpose of creating architectural drawings in 2019, and instead, pending the approval of our proposal amendments, ask for \$1,500 to continue our exploration of shared campus with consultant, David Raymond. This will be an item of business at St. James All-Parish meeting on June 9.

St. James representatives on the 3-Church Initiative Steering Committee: Fr. William Heisley, Jeanne LaBore, Stacey Athorn and Mary Nease.

From the Treasurer Tony Morley

Financial Report: April 30, 2019

Four months into the year, pledge payments were less than \$1,000 below budget; other income was \$2,000 short of budget, mostly because we've intentionally reduced our draw from the Dahl endowment. Total expenses, however, were well above budget, mostly due to cold-weather utility costs. The bottom line was an operating deficit of about \$3,000, far worse than budgeted by this date. The full-year deficit allowed by the budget is \$18,954. Here are the numbers through April.

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	over / (under)
Pledged Income	57,201	56,433	(768)
Other Income	21,949	19,923	(2,026)
Total Income	79,150	76,356	(2,794)
Expenses	72,692	79,559	(6,867)
Net	6,458	(3,203)	(9,661)

Non-budget Restricted Funds: Non-budget restricted balances on April 30 totaled \$15,991, as follows: Mary Anderson Better Space \$505; Piotrowski-Music \$693; Piotrowski-Altar \$1,754; Haiti \$9,355; Tri-Faith \$3,638; Priest's Discretion \$46.



Clip and Save



The Giving Garden

Vegetables from the garden are donated to the Minnehaha Food Shelf and other local food shelves.

2019 Work Days (10:00 AM – Noon)

- June 8
- July 13
- August 10
- September 13
- October 12 – Final Clean-Up

Location:

St. James on the Parkway Episcopal Church,
3225 East Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Want to volunteer?

Contact: nenagivinggarden@gmail.com

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

An invitation to go north

By Ruth Anne Olson, on behalf of
the St. James Haiti Committee

Over the years you've heard much about the folks of Trinity Lutheran Church. Joining with St. James in our partnership with Haiti, they've raised many-thousands of dollars for Bonne Nouvelle. In Hovland, Minnesota, they've hosted our visitors from Bigonet. Four times, they've traveled with St. James to Bigonet. They make a mean fish sandwich. And they live in a pretty awesome place, in the north woods along the shores of Lake Superior.

Their latest creative way to support Bonne Nouvelle is to sell Haitian art at the Fourteenth Annual Hovland Arts Festival. Toward that end, in May Tony and I loaded up all St. James supply of metal, stone and paper machè from Haiti, and delivered it to Trinity. The Festival: Friday, July 5 and Saturday, July 6, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Check out the website: <https://www.hovlandartsfestival.com>. Just 18 miles east of Grand Marais, it will make for an awesome holiday trip for folks of St. James. Though, I warn you. When they find out you're from St. James, they'll likely draft you into cooking brats, staffing the art table, or just engage you in all the lore that is the north. Let me know if you think you can make it.



Fourteenth ANNUAL 2019

HOVLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

AT THE HOVLAND TOWN HALL (hwy 61, mile marker 128.5, 18 mi east of Grand Marais)
FRIDAY and SATURDAY
July 5 and 6, 10 - 4

Joan Farnam, Lou Pignolet, Marv Jo Flack, Jim Vannet, Jo Wood, Terry Lewis, Jacob Carr, Hovland Fire Dept Artists, Dexter Thue, Todd Hawkinson, Linda Newman, Lenore Lampi, Hella Buchheim, Marcie McIntire, Sue Hangege, Kim Knutson, Jamie Rex, Susan Zimmerman, Lori Maly, Katy Attleson

Lake Superior News

www.hovlandartsfestival.com

Other participating artists: Julie Kean, Jeff Morgan, Mary MacDonald, Bob and Kathy Travis, JP Fraser, Dwayne Wabegjig, Vickie Biggs-Anderson, Halle Bockovich, and more!

LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD BOTH DAYS (food provided by Trinity Lutheran church)

LOCAL ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, FOOD



Above: Bonne Nouvellians try out snow-mobiles: March, 2018.

Left: Trinitarians Pearl and Ham Muus — the creative energy behind Trinity's Lenten Fundraiser for Bonne Nouvelle: \$1,100. April, 2019.



Abrahamic Tri-Faith Exploration

Multi-Faith Iftar at St. Mark's

By Tony Morley

More than 100 people gathered Thursday evening, May 16, at St. Mark's cathedral to break that day's Ramadan fast together. Known as "Iftar", the multi-faith dinner was sponsored by the Niagara Foundation, a mostly Turkish Muslim association. It was chaired by

Tolga Misirli, who has spoken at St. James and is known to several parishioners through the Three Faiths at One Table program. Ruth Anne Olson and Tony Morley represented St. James in lively conversation, as the strength of these relationships deepen.

Families Moving Forward SAVE THE DATE!

Host week is Sunday, Aug. 4 – 11
Room setup Tuesday, July 30 – Aug. 1

Can you give a couple of hours to:

- Join a team to prepare and add furnishings to guest rooms?
- Entertain a group of children?
- Play a board game with adults?
- Cook and serve a meal?



Join us this summer and make a big impact on families experiencing homelessness.

Check the LNL website to sign up – <http://www.lakenokomischurch.org/>

Thank you.

Ginny Rudloff and Robbie Becker
Your FMF Host Coordinators



Sunday Schedule

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

6/1 3-Churches Building Tour

10:00 AM Living Table United Church of Christ,
 3805 E. 40th St.
 10:45 AM St. James
 11:30 AM Lake Nokomis Lutheran,
 5011 31st Ave. S.

6/2 See Sunday Schedule

6/9 See Sunday Schedule

6/22 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting, Gallery

6/15 11:15 AM Food Shelf, At-Taqwa Mosque,
 1608 Como Avenue, St. Paul
 (Info: olson248@gmail.com)

6/16 See Sunday Schedule

6/17 4:30 PM 3-Church Initiative Planning:
 Lake Nokomis Lutheran

6/20 6:30 PM Yarn Crafters, Gallery
 (Info: Debbier582002@yahoo.com)

6/22 10:00 AM Building Work Day: Gather in the Gallery

6/23 See Sunday Schedule
 1:30 PM Laughing Waters Friends Meeting: Gallery

6/30 See Sunday Schedule



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