



The Epistle

July 2017

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

Walking the Way of the Cross

The Rev. William Heisley

Recently St. James member Steve Spencer suggested that I have a look at an on-line devotional guide called Mission St. Clare (missionstclare.com). I did. I have been praying the daily office of Morning Prayer regularly since then using this handy alternative to the prayer book.

Mission St. Clare is a ministry that is not found elsewhere. I thought at first that it might be put together by nuns or monks as part of their gift to the wider Church. Instead, I found that it is found only online and that it is posted for the use of all, free of charge, by Church people who simply encourage the celebration of our mutual faith in daily life.

I am writing this on a Friday. Today, one of the prayers on Mission St. Clare is this:

Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

When we really pay attention to what we are saying when we pray prayers that have been written by others and used for years or even centuries, like this one, there is the continually possibility that something new will emerge for us, perhaps each time we offer the prayer. Today I was struck with the phrase, walking the way of the cross.

A Celebration of the Resurrection at the Death of a colleague of mine was

held last evening. I've known him since 1980, known that he was full of energy and served the Church with great faithfulness and good spirit. His death followed an illness of just seven months and has left many people feeling a bit numb. *Walking the way of the cross.*

None of us is guaranteed a life free of suffering. Just last Sunday in the Second Lesson from Romans, St. Paul boasted about his sufferings. Boasted, pointing to the fact that sufferings might well be seen as having positive outcomes.

That is so hard to hear. So hard to understand. But there it is.

The way of the cross, walking through life with the knowledge that there is an end to life on this mortal sphere, walking with confidence and faith, living in hope

that the end will be the beginning, as the Christian faith promises, is what St. Paul is talking about. Living with the understanding that Jesus walked the way of the cross, the way of suffering, to death, for us, means that as death did not overcome Him, it shall not overcome us.

The last photo of my colleague, taken some seven days before his death, shows the ravages of disease in his face. And he is smiling. He is even radiant. Walking the way of the cross. Boasting in his sufferings, boasting in the true sense: exalting and giving glory to God's mercy, grace, and power, and looking forward to his welcome into the loving embrace of the One who loves us all.

Financial Report: May

by Kerry Durkin, Treasurer

St. James continued to experience favorable operating results through May 2017. Total income is favorable due to a combination of favorable pledged income and loose plate offerings.

Expenses have also been slightly favorable, mainly as a result of an open staff position. Other variances are mostly timing differences.

The outcome is a net surplus which is favorable to budget by \$14,300. Here is a summary of the YTD April results, showing all amounts rounded to the nearest \$100.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance Fav. / (Unfav.)
Pledged Income	\$ 69,500	\$ 61,700	\$ 7,800
Other Income	38,500	37,600	900
Total Income	108,00	99,300	8,700
Expenses	80,400	85,000	4,600
Net Surplus	\$ 27,600	\$ 14,300	\$ 13,300

Final Arrangements for “This is America” Event Underway!

The St. James ACORN-chartered Tri-Faith exploration committee and our new friends and collaborators from Twin Cities Jewish and Muslim organizations are all excited for a great party on July 4 from 1-4PM on the St. James lawn. The event is co-sponsored by St. James, Rabata, Daybreak bookshop, Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood of Empowerment (RISE), By the Rivers, and the MN chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.

This is America will feature games and activities for all ages, food trucks, and guest appearances by Brother Ali, Ali Gray, Mark Bloom, and our own Regina Williams. There are still opportunities to volunteer for the event in a few different ways, and if you would like to get involved contact Max Athorn (athorncm@mac.com).

Food Trucks:

The Cave Café – Afro Italian Fusion
MN Nice Cream – Soft Serve Ice Cream
Sal’s Place – Italian Food
Alimama’s – Mediterranean Food

Above all, please plan to attend, and bring your entire family and friends. If ever you were looking for an excuse to introduce a neighbor or loved one from some other part of your life to St. James and our greater community and mission, this is the day!



July 4th - 1-4pm

St. James on the Parkway, Episcopal Church, 3225 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55417

One block west of 34th Avenue on the south side of Minnehaha Parkway.

Activities for the whole family / fellowship and community building / food trucks

Guest appearances by Regina Marie Williams, Ali Gray, Mark Bloom and Brother Ali



From the Junior Warden Ted Gerold

Updates from the Junior Warden

The playground has been remodeled in partnership with Mandala Montessori. The climber was removed and a man from the neighborhood took the wood to build a wheelchair ramp. The playground surface was removed, drain tile was installed and new surface material was installed. Volunteers from St James and Mandala put in many hours of labor, and a contractor finished the work. St James also contributed financially to the project.

The community garden expansion is complete. Existing brick beds were raised higher, and four new raised beds were built. A variety of vegetables, greens and herbs were planted, and food shelf donations have begun. Volunteers from St James and Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) contributed many hours of labor

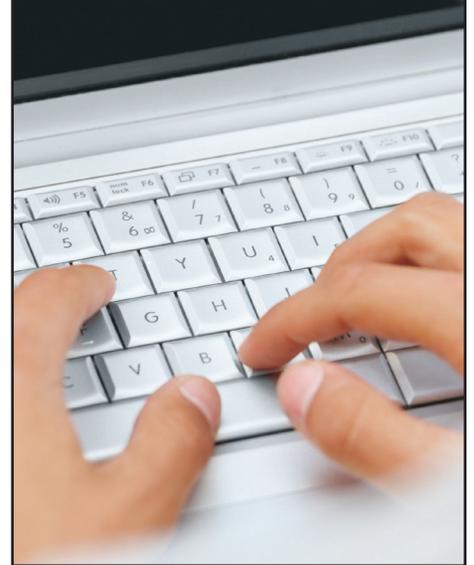
and time to this project. NENA financed the project with Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds. We are still looking for more gardeners to help maintain the beds.

The vestry has chosen to engage MacDonald and Mack Architects to perform an assessment of the church building and facilities. Proposals were received from four firms, and MM was thought to be the best fit for our needs. Vestry representatives will meet with them soon to start the process. The assessment information will be used to guide our plans the future of our building and grounds. This work is a directive from the Acorn2020 process.

Thanks to all volunteers and to all parishioners for your work and support.

August Epistle

Send articles to Beth Harvey
(stjamesotp@comcast.net and
bhpens@mac.com)
by Friday, July 21.



Deacon Greeney Reappointed – With A Twist

ECMN Bishop Brian Prior has reappointed Deacon Dawnlynn Greeney to St. James on the Parkway for the next year. And he has also appointed her to St. James the Apostle, Marshall, Minnesota. Deacon Greeney works for a company in Marshall during the week. Her service at SJA will allow her to bring a new and vital presence to that tiny congregation while she also will spend less time driving across the state. Currently the agreement has her in Minneapolis on the first and second Sundays of the month, in Marshall on the third and fourth Sundays of the month, and alternating fifth Sundays of the month between the two. Welcome back Dawnlynn!

Congratulations go to Debbi Ramos upon completion of EfM program

Debbi Ramos, an “eight o’clocker,” and a member of St. James’ Vestry, has spent the last four years in a weekly Sunday discussion group called Education for Ministry. EfM, endorsed by the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN), uses a program designed by the University of the South – Sewanee, and is meant to enable rich learning in all things Church – Bible, theology, Church history, etc. – for the laity.

For Debbi, job done! At the eight o’clock liturgy on Sunday 18 June Debbi received her certificate from the EfM group of which she was a part. And she preached an inspiring homily, encouraging all of us to embrace more deeply our faith.

Congratulations to Debbi!

For more information on EfM go to the ECMN website. You can join, too!

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

Deep Thanks for Your Support

by Susan Maas on behalf of the
Haiti Committee

Deep thanks to all who've pledged to support our partnership with the community of Bonne Nouvelle for 2017-2018. Whether you're a new or returning supporter, your investment is literally life-changing for our friends in Bigonet!

As the Epistle goes to press, we've received pledges totaling \$10,435. That's down a little from last year's total pledged, but up a bit from total payments actually received. (If you'd still like to make one last pledge payment for 2016-17, it's not too late – just specify that it's for last year on your envelope!)

Our last phone conversation with Bonne Nouvelle School principal Louis Noncent, on June 16, was relatively upbeat – especially given that less than a year ago, the community was devastated by Hurricane Matthew. Louis reported that students were winding down the school year, taking exams and challenging each other to grade-based soccer matches.

Four community members have been chosen for this October's visit to Minnesota. We're told they are chosen based on their length of service to the school and community, and their demonstrated leadership during that time. We also learned that they don't know yet that they have been selected—they are in for an exciting surprise! Louis is preparing to let them know after the end of exams. After that, they'll begin the visa application process and we'll begin preparing letters of support.

The four teachers chosen for this October's visit to Minnesota – selected, primarily, based on the length of their service to the school – had not yet been notified of their selection. Louis was preparing to let them know after the end of exams. After that, they'll

begin the visa application process and we'll begin preparing letters of support.

Meanwhile, we worry that the new political climate in the U.S. may make it harder to bring our friends to Minnesota. The current administration has ordered tougher scrutiny of visitors to the U.S., particularly those from countries – like Haiti – that aren't part of the visa waiver program. Consular officials are warning that the number of visa denials is increasing, and that the approval process is likely to slow significantly.

At this point, it's impossible to know what the odds of success might be. Please keep our would-be travelers in your prayers, and think positive thoughts! On that note, if you've got ideas for activities for October's visit, please speak to a Haiti Committee member: Louise Robinson, Kurt Hall, Ruth Anne Olson, Susan Maas, Liz Athorn, Mary Heltsley, or Fr. William.

What activities/outings/experiences might our friends enjoy? What could we do together that will help give them a sense of what it's like to be a Minnesotan – or a St. Jamesian? We'd especially love to hear your thoughts on how we might engage St. James youth in this next visit!

And if your household might have an extra bed and the interest in hosting for a couple of days, please let us know! We'll provide help with interpretation, guidance regarding breakfast, and daytime/evening activities so you're only "on" in the morning and at bedtime. It's easy and so much fun. (If you don't have the capacity for hosting two guests overnight, but would like to consider hosting a meal or small party, speak up – the possibilities are wide open at this point!)

We can't overstate how much your active participation means to this relationship – materially and spiritually. Thank you again – One! Respe!



Are You Wondering What Can I Do?

by Anne Scheible

In a year filled with disturbing news, an often heard phrase at St. James has been, “What can I do?” The answer is not simple. In Portland, Oregon in May, two men died and a third was wounded when they tried to intervene as two young women were being harassed by a man yelling anti-Muslim slurs. So how does one help in a safe way? A cartoon published on Facebook group The Middle Eastern Feminist demonstrates some strategies that can be used when you see harassment. The cartoon was illustrated by artist, Marie-Shirine Yener, known as Maeril. Two articles have featured the cartoon, “Islamophobic Abuse: Cartoon Gives Advice On How to Help if You Witness Hate Crime” by Sarah Ann Harris for The Huffington Post and “How to Help if Someone is Being Harassed” by Anna North for The New York Times. The cartoon is shown and the complete articles can be found at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/islamophobic-abuse-advice-bystander-hate-crime_uk_57c83652e4b09f5b5e3596fb

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/23/opinion/how-to-help-if-someone-is-being-harassed.html>

Both articles give additional techniques and resources. They are definitely worth reading. The cartoon below is useful as a quick visual reference.



- 1 Engage conversation.**
Go to them, sit beside them and say hello. Try to appear calm, collected and welcoming. **IGNORE THE ATTACKER.**



- 2 Pick a random subject and start discussing it.**
It can be anything: a movie you liked, the weather, saying you like something they wear and asking where they got it...



- 3 Keep building the safe space.**
Keep eye contact with them and don't acknowledge the attacker's presence: the absence of response from you two will push them to leave the area shortly.



- 4 Continue the conversation until the attacker leaves & escort them to a safe place if necessary.**
Bring them to a neutral area where they can recollect themselves; respect their wishes if they tell you they're ok and just want to go.



This guide was written & illustrated by Maeril | @itsmaeril - Translated in English for The Middle Eastern Feminist



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