



The Epistle

February 2020

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

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Choosing our consolidation partner

February 11

Consolidation Team will send to the Vestry its recommendation regarding our consolidation partner: St. Luke's or St. Mary's.

February 15

The Vestry will distribute to St. James members the recommendation and supporting materials.

February 23

9:00 AM St. James members are encouraged to gather in the Gallery, to discuss the recommendation with Vestry members and Consolidation Team.

March 1

9:00 AM – Noon The Vestry will distribute and receive ballots.

March 2

The Vestry will announce results.

The Very Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop-Elect

The Very Rev. Craig Loya was elected during the 162nd convention held in St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, MN on January 25th, 2020.

When notified of the election, Loya shared this statement:

"I am deeply grateful to the people of ECMN, and I pray that, by God's grace, I will be faithful to the trust you have placed in me today. Among diverse people and across diverse contexts, Minnesota Episcopalians have always borne vibrant witness to God's reconciling love, and it's an extraordinary privilege to be called to join that work in this new season. I look forward to walking with you as we follow Jesus together, engage what the Holy Spirit is up to in our neighborhoods, and boldly navigate a new landscape, in order to continue proclaiming the good news of God's love to a world that is so hungry for it."

Many thanks to St. James delegates Rosemary Caspar, Katie Mytty and Debra Ramos—and to the many people throughout St. James who engaged in the process.

Consecration of the new bishop is scheduled for June 6, 2020.



The Very Rev. Craig Loya

Voting Procedures

On March 1st, all St. James qualified voters will be asked to vote on the recommendation from the Vestry as to with which parish we will pursue consolidation. A qualified voter of St. James is defined as:

1. A member (baptized person who has duly recorded their baptism with St. James)
2. At least 16 years of age
3. Communicant in good standing (person who has received Holy Communion at St. James at least 3 times in the preceding year)

Qualified voters may vote either in person on March 1st or by absentee ballot. An absentee ballot shall be valid only when it is cast in strict compliance with the procedure as follows:

- a. Application – a qualified voter desiring to vote by absentee ballot shall apply to the parish office for such ballot on or before February 26, 2020. Application may be made in person, in writing, by phone or by e-mail. Please contact Kerry Nelson at kjnven@gmail.com or at 920-915-6429 if you wish an absentee ballot.

- b. Ballot Issuance – The ballot will be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the qualified voter, marked by the qualified voter and returned to the parish office not later 9:30 AM on March 1, 2020.
- c. Absentee ballots received after March 1, 2020 will be void.

Each qualified voter wishing to vote in person on March 1, 2020 will receive an envelope with their name on it. Inside will be the ballot for them to complete and return to Kerry Nelson by end of the 10:30 AM service. The ballot must be returned in the same envelope and sealed to be counted as only qualified voters will be allowed to vote.

Any questions regarding voting should be directed to Kerry Nelson, Sr. Warden. To confirm your membership status, check the list in the Gallery or email Kerry Nelson, kjnven@gmail.com.

Adult Forum

Do Bishops matter? What am I looking for from Church?

by Tony Morley

Adult Forum is the serious but informal time between Sunday services (9:30-10:25 AM) when grown-ups talk together in a group. February offers a varied menu.

February 2: Last month we elected a new bishop for Episcopalians in Minnesota. Why all the pomp and circumstance? Are bishops that important for our church? Discussion led by Tony Morley, with supply priest Terry Dinovo taking part.

February 9 and 16: On all our minds this winter is choosing where to worship when St. James leaves the Parkway next summer. In Adult Forum these two Sundays we'll ask an underlying question: Wherever I decide to worship next, what will I be looking for? Discussion led by Tony Morley, with Fr. Dinovo invited to take part on the 9th and supply priest James Snyder on the 16th. Fr. Heisley will still be on post-surgery leave.

February 23: No Adult Forum today. Instead, come at 9:00 AM for an all-parish informal conversation with the Vestry and Consolidation Team about their recommendation of another parish for consolidation with St. James.

From Senior Warden Kerry Nelson

Supporting our service partners

On January 19, 2020 during the 10:30 service, a presentation was recorded to send to our friends in Bigonet, Haiti. My part of this announcement was to tell them about the Vestry action taken at our December meeting to allocate \$24,000 to Bonne Nouvelle to assist with the rebuilding of the church structure. This was a very special presentation that will affect lives here and in Bigonet for years to come. Many of you may be wondering where these funds came from or what was the process for allocating the funds to Bonne Nouvelle.

Over the past few years there has been a build up of cash reserves in the St. James bank account. This was due to managing expenses and having a positive budget. In 2018, when planning for the 2019 budget, it was clear that some of the cash reserves were going to be used to fund a deficit budget. As our treasurer, John Heintz, indicated at the annual meeting, the deficit for 2019 was about \$26,000. This deficit was covered by our cash reserves.

In preparing for our 2020 budget, John prepared a cash flow statement month by month to see whether our income (pledge/rental/endowment) would meet our expenses. If the income falls short, how much of our reserves would be needed. At the same time, the Vestry was wanting to provide for our service partners that may be left behind once we consolidate with another parish. I called a meeting with Louis Hoffman, Anne Scheible and Louise Robinson to get their thoughts on which service partners should be considered for support from us and the amount of support. As a result of this meeting and a thorough review of the cash available we presented the following to the Vestry for their consideration at the December meeting:

2019 recommended disbursements for St. James service partners:

- Haiti. \$12,000 for rebuilding the church of Bonne Nouvelle
- First Nations Kitchen. \$1,000

- Minnehaha Food Shelf. \$2,500
- Families Moving Forward. \$600

2020 recommended disbursements for St. James service partners

- Haiti. \$12,000 for rebuilding the church of Bonne Nouvelle
- First Nations Kitchen. \$1,000
- Minnehaha Food Shelf. \$2,500
- Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (Giving Garden). \$500

Both the 2019 and 2020 disbursements were approved by the Vestry. As a result, we still expect to have positive cash reserves at June 30, 2020. Thank you to John for providing the Vestry with the information needed to make this decision and to Louis, Anne and Louise for their thoughtful input. St. James is known for community involvement and partnerships. Just because we are leaving the Parkway does not mean we won't continue this involvement. Service will always be a key part of our identity.

March Epistle

Submission Deadline:
February 26

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

Publication Date:
March 3

Comments or suggestions
are always welcome:

Content: Ruth Anne Olson

Design & Publication:
Beth Harvey

2020 Vestry, Officers and Delegates

Senior Warden

Kerry Nelson

Junior Warden

Ted Gerold

Vestry Members

Max Athorn
Julie Brauninger
Greg Fedio
Louis Hoffman
Jeanne LaBore
Jim Larson

Clerk

Brianna Broman

Treasurer

John Heintz

Delegates to ECMN Convention

Jinny Bouvette
Rosemary Caspar
Debra Ramos

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

Wasting no time

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

Piles of gravel and workers ready!

If you were at St. James on January 19, you witnessed the exciting announcement about our vestry's decision to help Bonne Nouvelle build their new church. (If you missed some of this wonderful story, read Kerry Nelson's piece elsewhere in this *Epistle*). Within days after wiring a first installment of money, co-chairs Kurt Hall and Louise Robinson received photos of progress in Bigonet. Piles of sand and gravel—soon to rise as walls, replacing the unstable tin and tarps of their church, within which people have worshipped since the earthquake of 2010.

Excitement was palpable on January 27 during our monthly phone call with the people of Bigonet. Usually only one or two people, this time school principal Louis Noncent had arranged for their vestry and other leaders (pictured here) to be part of the call—and to watch together the video we'd sent them of the St. James service on January 19.

"We don't have words that we can say to thank you," said Ceder, long-time friend of St. James. "We don't need a lot of talking. God will thank you," said Junie. "We greet the whole team in the name of Bonne Nouvelle Church," said Jimmy. "We infinitely thank St. James for the sacrifice you make for us to rebuild our church." On and on the excitement and gratitude flowed. "It happens a lot that we cannot find a bigger word to replace the word 'thank you.'" "I pray to God for all the people who were part of this gift that God will preserve you, keep you, and give you a longer life."

It's impossible to ignore the grace-filled symmetry of this moment—as St. James prepares to close its doors and

the people of Bonne Nouvelle look toward new life. They've waited more than ten years—unwavering, it seems, in their faith that good was yet to come. Since 2008, our lives have been intertwined. May it ever be so.

Finally, we end each year with a comprehensive summary of activities, which we distribute at St. James

and send to our partners: Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in St. Paul, Anwatin Middle School and Kenwood Retirement Community, both of Minneapolis. If you'd like one, email Louise Robinson larobinson303@gmail.com for an electronic copy.



Leaders of Bonne Nouvelle gather for January phone conversation with St. James.

Onè! Respe! Honor! Respect!
Established 2008

2019 Year End Report

The report cover features the title '2019 Year End Report' in a large, bold font. Below the title are three small photographs: one showing a group of people carrying rocks from a river, another showing workers laying a foundation, and a third showing the completed church building. The text on the cover includes the name of the church ('Eglise Episcopale Bonne Nouvelle, Bigonet, Haiti'), the year it was established ('Established 2008'), and the names of the co-chairs ('Co-chairs: Kurt Hall and Louise Robinson'). It also lists the partners ('In partnership with: The Episcopal Church of St. James, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland, Minnesota') and the St. James Haiti Committee members ('Members: Liz Ahorn, Mary Halsley, Susan Mass, Karen Murdoch, Ruth Anne Olson').

2019 Year End Report.



Gravel for Bonne Nouvelle's walls.

Transitions

Decisions for our future

By Ruth Anne Olson,
Transition Coordinator

An important collective decision is near at hand, as the St. James Consolidation Team (C-Team) seeks to answer the question, "Which parish, St. Luke's or St. Mary's, offers the best opportunity for us to sustain our mission and create our future?"

This is an exciting task. First, because the C-Team has before it two enormously positive and exciting choices—not one, but two, congregations eager to recreate themselves in consolidation with us.

Second, because the C-Team knows a ton about each of those two churches

and even more about St. James. Through a myriad of activities, conversations and documents, they've learned what our own members are seeking as well as what opportunities and uncertainties lie within the programs, cultures, governance, property and financial health of each potential partner.

The C-Team is prepared to offer an informed and thoughtful collective commitment to a place where, five years from now, people will say, not only, "the folks who used to go to St. James are here in our pews," but also "the culture and ministries of St. James are alive in the worship,

education and service of a new and vigorous community of faith".

As you know, none of this binds any individual to our collective future. Proximity, friendships, and other sometimes-elusive qualities of connection will always drive the faith decisions of each of us as individuals. Wherever you are on this journey, be sure to read elsewhere in this *Epistle* the ways that you can be engaged.

St. James C-Team: Cliff Athorn, cathorn6@gmail.com; Rosemary Caspar, rlcaspar@gmail.com; William Heisley, wheisley@mac.com; Anthony Morley, ajm.tony@gmail.com; and Kerry Nelson, kjnven@gmail.com.



2/2 See Sunday Schedule

2/5 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

2/9 See Sunday Schedule

2/11 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting: Gallery

2/12 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

2/15 11:15 AM Food Shelf, At-Taqwa Mosque, 1608 Como Avenue, St. Paul

2/16 See Sunday Schedule
Distribution of Vestry recommendation on consolidation

2/19 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

2/20 6:30 PM Yarn Crafters, Gallery

2/22 10:00 AM Building Work Day

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

2/23 See Sunday Schedule
9:00 AM All Parish Conversation re Vestry recommendation on consolidation

1:30 PM Laughing Waters Friends Meeting: Gallery

2/26 Noon Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Sanctuary
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Sanctuary
7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary

3/1 See Sunday Schedule
9:00 AM Distribution and collection of consolidation ballots - Noon



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