



The Epistle

February 2017

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

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Energized: Working for the Good of All People with Hope

The Rev. William Heisley

As I sit to write this I face a blank screen that will not easily be filled. What to say? What needs to be read, to be heard, by the disciples that are St. James on the Parkway? I pick up a book entitled *Saints: A Year in Faith and Art*, and I learn that today, at least on some Christian calendars, is the feast of St. Ildephonsus of Toledo. I read about him, about his having been a Benedictine abbot who was raised to the episcopacy of Toledo in the 7th century. I see him portrayed by Peter Paul Rubens bowing at the feet of, kissing the hand of the Blessed Virgin Mary, two women attending to her, two others holding palm branches at her side, and three angels – puti – hovering above, holding a crown of flowers. Soon, I expect, she will be wearing the flowers.

I am moved by this scene of adoration, joy, beauty, heavenly peace, placed in front of a dimly lit but nevertheless present grotto of ornate architectural design. I read that apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, which he must have had repeatedly, are largely his claim to sainthood.

And then I read this: “Ildephonsus is of Germanic origin and means ‘ready for battle.’”

The peace, the beauty, the joy, the sheer worship of one who is suppos-

edly blessed by God of all generations to come is marked by another, a bishop who is ready for battle.

I don’t like battle. As a child of the 1960’s, as a detestor of war, as a man of peace, at least in my own mind, I now need to question this image of Saint Ildephonsus and the Virgin. Ready for battle. How can I not ponder these things in my current context? A million people – maybe more; who knows? – marched for peace and wholeness in nearly countless locations around the world just two days ago. And here is a saint – a holy one – who is ready for battle. Does his name not contradict the image before me?

The Book of Common Prayer offers us the chance to pray Mary’s Song, the *Magnificat*, (Luke 1:46-55) at both Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.” In our present reality I can only think of the poor, the lowly, those who are hungry for justice and mercy and truth – real truth – and peace and wholeness, those who are like so many of us, kneeling at the feet of the Virgin and

calling for her song to be sung so clearly that God’s blessings of life might fill us, might fill all people with renewed hope and vigor. That we who are newly energized to work for the good of all people, around the world, might do so without losing hope.

That we might – that I might – understand that sometimes battle is necessary. It is necessary to meet destructive power with the power of Jesus as our shield, our buckler, our food and our drink. It is necessary to listen to St. Paul. In 2 Timothy 4 he writes, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching...As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Like Saint Paul, like Saint Ildephonsus, might it be so, dear Lord, for each of us.

In nomine Jesu,
William +

From the Senior Warden Neal Cuthbert

Looking Back on 2016 at St. James

2016 was an unusual year for St. James in that we saw many major staff transitions. Fortunately, rather than causing chaos and confusion, it seemed to demonstrate the resilience of our small but active community. Our priest, Jim Young retired mid-year, quickly followed by our long-term music director, David Lesniaski. Both were preceded by the departure of our education director, Ed Burke. While we have not been able to hire a new education director, we successfully hired a new interim priest, William Heisley, and a new permanent music director, Liz Athorn, who stepped forward with a great plan. Both of these have brought new energy and new ideas to our community. We are thankful and appreciative for the leadership of both of these individuals.

On the financial front we met our budget projections for the year, with not too many bad things happening to the building, and some of our programs continue to thrive while others are undergoing reflection and renewal. An ongoing issue for us is finding volunteers to make all of the things we'd love to see happen happen. That said, the year saw another great pageant, a choir that is performing wonderfully and having fun in the process, kids

engaged, beautiful flowers and services, an office humming along, good vestry meetings, renewed service work, an ongoing partnership with our friends in Haiti and with Mandala, and a building that is more or less hanging in there. Our future visioning group, Acorn 2020, finished their work and submitted their report at the vestry's January meeting and the vestry accepted the report with deep gratitude, discharged Acorn, charged two workgroups to continue their discussions with outside potential partners, and is reading the report and its recommendations. The vestry will be dedicating its February meeting to discussion and action. This is an exciting time for St. James.

On behalf of the vestry I want to thank each and every person who makes things go at St. James. It's not easy making a place like ours accomplish all that it does, and it takes a lot of dedicated people giving time, resources, talent, and their energy. Like many forms of energy, ours is a renewable resource, but it's one we have to tend to, to be grateful for, because even in a Christian community people get tired and need a pat on the back, a smile, and a sense that their efforts are noticed and appreciated. The vestry appreciates and is thankful for all that

happens at St. James each and every day.

So what might 2017 hold? With the Acorn recommendations in hand, the vestry will deliberate and then hold parish meetings to consider our next steps. While we will have William through 2017, we will need to begin the process to find his permanent replacement near year's end. While our financial year-to-year situation is workable, it depends on our short-term use of endowment funds (not a long-term option or desired plan) and our good fortune with our tenant, Mandala. Flat and dwindling pledges make up the third leg of our financial stool that gets us from one year to the next. Because the work of Acorn 2020 is about our future, and trying to craft one that is sustainable, its recommendations come at the perfect time. Some aspects of 2017 will unfold in a predictable manner but more than likely unexpected events and challenges will show up and we will sort through them and see our way forward. But it's clear to many of us that we as a community are on a long-awaited threshold with an exciting future unfolding ahead of us. Thank you for being a part of the St. James community and sharing in this journey!



Laptops! Donate Your Used Laptops to Haiti

Do you have (or does your company have) a used laptop computer to donate?

St. John's Episcopal Church in Linden Hills is collecting laptops for their partners in Gressier, Haiti.

If you can help, please contact Dianne Pizey at diannepizey@aol.com

It's Party Time!

Social Directors Needed at St. James!

One of the topics that came up at last Palm Sunday's congregational meeting and that's been talked about by lots of people before and after is that we just don't have social gatherings like we used to. Remember coffees and teas for new members? Shrove Tuesday feasts and pancake suppers? The Great Hall looking like a magical ballroom thanks to Janis Martin? Potlucks without agendas? Those events didn't just happen! We don't have someone who can turn water into wine and a few fish into a feast. Well, we actually do.

... But, well, you know what I mean, right? For the temporal events we long for nostalgically, people got together, organized them, and made them happen! You have no idea how many onions you need to chop for some of those things that were served!

Just because making St. James into party central isn't in the ACORN/2020 recommendations to the Vestry doesn't mean it's not a good idea and can't or shouldn't happen. Big changes involving lots of hard work are coming our way. Wouldn't it be nice, after a

contentious Vestry meeting, resolving a particularly thorny issue, getting a big property project done, or for no reason at all, to have good conversation, drink, and food, get to know people we don't know well, or at all, and build a stronger sense of community at St. James?

This is a great opportunity for amateur chefs and sommeliers, party planner wannabes, and people looking for a great way to make St. James better. We can party like its 2007. Or even 1999. Think about it and step forward!



FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN

Volunteers Needed on Sunday, February 26th

One of the important service ministries at St. James is providing volunteers to help the All Nations Indian Mission with its Sunday evening First Nations Kitchen. This is what Bishop Prior recently said about First Nations Kitchen:

"First Nations Kitchen is unquestionably a missional innovation partnership; faith communities, community partners and others collaborating to engage God's mission. It's been an incredible five years for First Nations Kitchen, and if you have not been a part of this transformational experience—please consider yourself invited to do so."

What do we do? We need volunteers to help with food preparation, dining room set up, and serving dinner on Sunday, February 26:

- Food preparation 1:30-3:30 PM
- Dining Room Setup 4:00-5:00 PM
- Serving dinner: 5:00-6:30 PM

How do you get involved? There are two easy steps:

1. On Sunday go to Chapel Hall and write your name, telephone number, and e-mail address on the signup sheet. Not going to be at church? Just call Louis Hoffman at 612-618-7206 or e-mail him at hoffman.louis@comcast.net.

2. Come on Sunday, February 26 to help.

Please visit FNK on-line at firstnationskitchen.org to find out more about this important ministry.

FNK is located at 3044 Longfellow Avenue at the corner of East 31st Street. There's on-street parking. It's also accessible via Metro Transit Routes 21, 22, and 27 and, with a short walk, the Blue Line (Lake Street/Midtown Station). The accessible entrance is on East 31st Street at the west end of the building.

The Women's March – January 21st

List of those who we know attended the March

Washington, D.C.

Susan Maas

St. Paul Capitol, MN

Cliff Athorn	Neal Cuthbert	Jeanne LaBore	Ruth Anne Olson
Liz Athorn	Kris Donnelly	Casey McGuire	Louise Robinson
Sarah Brookner	Tina Pfau Gonzales	Dan McGuire	Anne Sween
Rosemary Caspar	Rebecca Hamblin	Leah Morley	Regina Williams

Reflections on The Women's March

Anne Walcott Sween: Why did I go on the March? I'm 74 years old and certainly could play the "Age Card" to justify not going. I have an "activist past" but had been lulled into thinking that everything would be taken care of without my participation.

THEN: The Candidacy of Donald J. Trump jolted me out of any excuse I may have had not to be active again in the political process. Consequently, when the possibility of attending this March was presented, I jumped at it!

I suspect there are almost as many reasons why people attended The Women's March as there were people there. But I sensed while looking at the signs, talking to and hugging strangers around me, listening to the speeches and just basking in the atmosphere, that what united us was the "hope" (sound familiar) of a better world personally and globally that was in imminent danger of being shattered for us, our kids and grandkids. Knowing that this March was being replicated in 50 states and 57+ countries made all those reasons not just personal, regional or national, but global. We were standing near the podium/bandstand that was set up in front of the Capitol. The most awesome sight for me was the march from the Cathedral coming down to the Capitol being led by the Native American Drummers.

Given the wide diversity and astronomical number (they estimate 100,000) of participants, the cama-

raderie, and yes, love that pervaded the atmosphere of this March transcended any activist event in recent memory. On reflection this was not just an event—it was the symbolic/official start of a Movement of people committed to seeing women's rights as human rights and all the related specific issues translated into policies and actions.

Another observation is that this global March was initiated and run by women. The passionate, cooperative and loving atmosphere, the focus on social justice, civility and lack of violence was without doubt due to the influence of many incredible women.

Finally, the March impressed on me how important it is for citizens in a democracy to take nothing for granted and the necessity of always being vigilant and aware of those that would sabotage the rights that we have. Looking around the Mall of the Capitol I believe that the March not only gave this Movement hope and its start, but also has given it "legs" to implement what needs to be done. Donald J. Trump was the "catalyst" that lit the fire to march, but the people attending the March and those who could not but were there in spirit, are the creators of the Movement.

Only time will tell how important this March has been in creating a living Movement. But my prediction is that we will see increased participation by all those represented at the State Capitol on Saturday, January 21.

Regina Williams: I wasn't sure until I arrived at the capital that it was the right place for me to be. So many of us were marching or attending the rally for different reasons. For many of my friends their bodies and their womanhood were #1. As a mother but especially as a black mother my concerns are different under this administration than many of my co-marchers. I was struck by a sign at the march that read "if you don't have a seat at the table, rest assured you will be on the menu."

I took the train from a friend's condo at Raymond and University. The train ride was not reassuring. There was no one on it that looked like me. Once I arrived at the capital a white woman 60-70 years old (I'm guessing) looked at me and smiled "I'm so glad to see you. I am so glad you're here." I could have been offended but I was struck by the sincerity and her genuineness.

I loved being there. I/we felt validated. Our concerns...each and every one of us out there were taken seriously/validated. We applauded the men that stood with us, stood in solidarity with ALL of our co-rallyers. We made room for folks in wheel chairs and walkers, and encouraged the hearing impaired to move forward to experience the sign language. I am so glad I went. So glad to be amongst such positive energy. It felt sane, loving, supportive, validating, HOPEFUL! I will forever remember this day. And that moment of silence...wow! Just wow! One minute at 1:00pm. You could feel it.

Susan Maas: I can't wait to see your coverage of the St. Paul March; it looked/sounded EPIC! D.C. was incredible. I'm still processing it. I feel so lucky to have been a tiny part of it, and I know I'm going to have to reach back and draw strength/inspiration from my memories of that day. SO much work to do—but that sure did get us off to a great start, right??

Kris Donnelly: I marched in St Paul. The experience was amazing. I marched with women born in Mexico and Argentina and Minnesota. Seeing so many generations of girls and women marching together peacefully and joyfully filled my heart. We all have different concerns and different passions and had the opportunity to listen to one another whether we agreed or not.

Ruth Anne Olson: This was an amazing experience: First standing on a small hillside, watching rivers of people coming from all directions. Then becoming part of the sea of people exercising our power as citizens of a democracy.

Leah Morley: The Women's March was one of the most inspirational and hopeful things I've ever experienced. I loved everything about it—so many of these people came together in solidarity and strength around the world. It was truly beautiful and made me feel much better about our situation.

Rosemary Caspar: I was at the march and rally with my sister-law and my niece. After the horribleness of Friday it was good to be doing something positive and standing with so many women. We did not get to hear all the speeches at the rally, but I was energized by Nekima Levy-Pounds and Sandy Pappas.

Liz Athorn: Cliff and I attended. No pictures; you'll have to take our word for it. It was cathartic to see all the thousands of people in our community who share our values and our alarm at the new state of the political landscape.

Jeanne LaBore: I was there. Saw Louise and Neal there too. Best poster: Surprise me with restraint and generosity. Free Melania!

Tina Pfau Gonzales: I was there and it was an amazing experience! To be surrounded by such great energy, love and community. It really gave me hope for the future.

Casey McGuire: The words from this song written for the inauguration, lyrics written by a Minneapolis poet, were rolling through my head at the March.

Now We Belong

by Michael Dennis Brown

Here are the voices of every creature,
Here are the calls of every heart;
Here is the place of strangers' welcome,
We who once walked in strangers' shoes.
Once we were strangers,
We were welcomed,
Now we belong and believe in this land.
Here are the rivers of many echoes,
Here are the leaves of every tree;
Within us live the long horizons,
Winds that stir the sacred stones.
Once we were strangers,
We were welcomed,
Now we belong and believe in this land.
Keep faith, keep watch,
Take heart, take courage,
Guard mind, guard spirit.
Feed love, feed longing.



Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

Haiti Committee Update: Help Us Make this Fall's Visit the Best Yet

by Susan Maas on behalf of the
Haiti Committee

Several weeks ago, St. Jamesian Anne Onè! Respe! One of the most meaningful ways we show honor and respect to our Haitian partners is through hospitality: accepting theirs, offering ours.

In January 2013, five years into our partnership and after sending numerous St. Jamesians to Bigonet, we welcomed a delegation from Bonne Nouvelle for the first time – three educators from Bonne Nouvelle School and the parish lay leader. It was a rich, joyful, illuminating experience, for them and for us: learning, worshipping, and playing together here in Minnesota. Life-changing on both sides.

We hosted a second time in spring 2015, and this year – 2017 – we hope again to host several Bonne Nouvelians. Because our friends are still working to recover from Hurricane Matthew, this time it'll be a fall visit. Your engagement can help make it the most successful visit yet!

You don't need to join the Haiti Committee to get involved in planning and hosting. Although we don't yet have details on how many guests are coming, who they are, or how long they'll be here, it's not too early to start brainstorming. We welcome:

- **Your ideas of what the itinerary might include this time.** Past visits have included school tours and talks and, given the centrality of education to this partnership, that will likely be the case again. But there will be time for more! 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!

- **Your ideas for fundraising, to help underwrite our friends' travel expenses.** They're committed to each contributing their own savings toward this trip, but it's a costly undertaking – especially given the ongoing hurricane recovery effort in Bigonet. We know, however, how important these back-and-forth visits are to affirming the mutuality of this friendship . . . and we're a creative bunch, right?
- **Your offers to welcome our guests into your home.** Every single St. James family/household that's hosted a pair of Bonne Nouvelle travelers has had a blast. Most are able and willing to do it again – but forging new personal connections is important to this partnership.

So if your family has an extra bed and the interest in hosting for a couple of days, please let us know! We'll provide help with interpretation plus 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!)

Heaven knows we all can use more joy in our lives. This visit is guaranteed to generate joy – lots of learning, a little discomfort, moments of awkwardness, but mostly joy – for everyone involved. We invite you to be a part of it in any and every way that speaks to you. Please reach out to a member of the Haiti Committee with your ideas for this upcoming adventure: Kurt Hall, Louise Robinson, Sue Maas, Mary Heltsley, Karen Murdock, Liz Athorn, and Ruth Anne Olson



Photo Captions

Bottom Left: Minnesota Breakfast - 2015

Left: Playing Foosball- 2013

Below: A Minnesota Park - 2015

Bottom: American Food Market - 2013



Pastoral Care: Please Let Us Know!

The Rev. William Heisley

One of the frequent obstacles to doing effective parish ministry is not knowing who is in-firm, sick, hospitalized, in a residential facility either short or long term, and who would like a pastoral visit.

Since one of the keystones of pastoral care is visitation I am eager to serve you and yours wherever and you might be. There are sometimes issues caused by the fact that I live 30 some miles west of St. James and work only part time as your Transition Priest. Neverthe-less, I seek to do the most and the best that I can.

Therefore, PLEASE let me or Beth Harvey, Office Administrator, know of your needs so that I can do my best to be with you and so that the entire faith community of St. James might pray for you.

- My cell phone number is: 612-968-7439
- Beth's cell phone number is: 612-250-9795

If you prefer to reach her, she will relay information to me in a timely fashion.

Please do not leave a message at the office since phones are not checked regularly.

Know that at St. James you are loved and cared for no matter what your estate in life, your situation, your needs. We will do our best – with the help of the Holy Spirit!

March *Epistle*

Send articles for the March *Epistle* to Beth Harvey (stjamesotp@comcast.net and bhpens@mac.com) by Monday, February 20. Publication on February 28.



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