



The Epistle

April 2018

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

Learning to Live a Resurrected Life

The Rev. William Heisley

Here I am, almost 69 years old, and I'm still trying to learn how to live a resurrected life. In fact, I'm still trying to learn what living a *resurrected life* means. Maybe that phrase, resurrected life, is empty or banal, or even heretical. Can I, a mere human, ever live a resurrected life? But that thought won't let me alone. I keep mulling it over. I keep trying.

Jesus, it seems to me, did not live such a life. After all, he was the resurrection, according to his own words in John 11:25: *I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.* He said this to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, whom he had just raised from the dead.

So then this question arises: How can I be resurrected like Lazarus? We are not told in holy writ what Lazarus did, how he lived, in his life after death. Just that he did. Then, amazingly, he lived.

My thoughts take me back to Holy Baptism. In my native Lutheranism, my theological home for 42 years, I was deeply immersed in baptismal theology. Everything begins at the font as the sacrament of Water and Word is celebrated. And life continues at the font as we are reminded over and over that we are *baptized* people. And new life begins at the font as we, like Lazarus, die, drowning in the waters that overwhelm us, and rise, lifted by the spoken Word himself, Jesus.

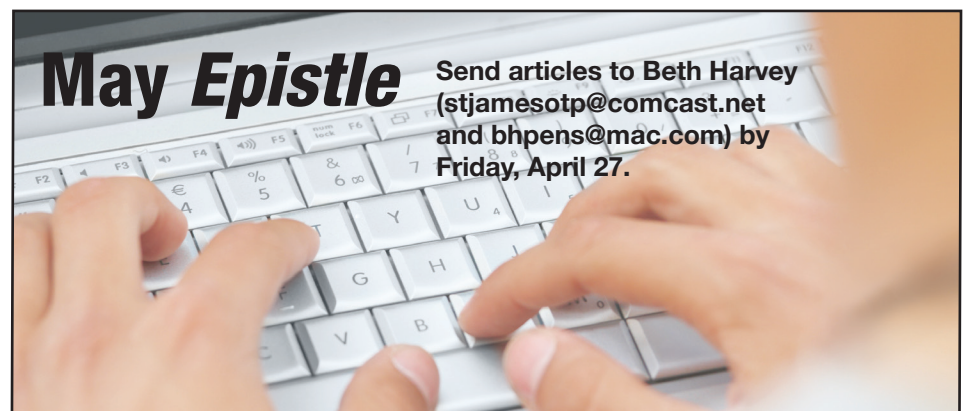
So here is that: I was baptized on Easter Sunday 1950 by my grandfather, my pastor, along with all other children in our little congregation who were born in the previous year or so. We went to Sunday School and youth group together for years, and spent 12 years in the same schools. Then, early adulthood broke us up. We, the baptized, were called into the rest of our lives to live for others. At least that's what the famous 20th century American monk Thomas Merton said: *Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.*

Living as the baptized is not about the worthiness of others. It is *giving* to others. It is being, *being* for others. We constantly and consistently interact with new people in new places with new faces and new feelings and new beliefs and new yearnings and new, yet ever old, needs.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and the author of many books and articles. He wrote this:

"Christianity is a lifestyle – a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established 'religion' (and all that goes with that) and avoided the lifestyle change itself. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is one's 'personal Lord and Savior' ... The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great."

The Church, The Episcopal Church, the Lutheran churches, any church, exists not as an end in itself, but as a community of people who understand Rohr's premise: Jesus teaches us to live simply, to abhor violence in any form, to share and to love in all things. The Church must never be the end goal, but only the means to something much greater: living a resurrected life.



From the Senior Warden Louis Hoffman

Continuing to Build Partnerships

I usually recycle my service bulletin. If Rebecca isn't at church, I'll bring it home for her. I can't remember if that's why I brought the February 18, 2018 bulletin home. Or why it didn't get recycled at home. The cover had a cross that contained the words of George MacLeod, a leading twentieth century minister of the Church of Scotland. I'm guessing that none of you saved it. So I'll repeat those words here:

"I simply argue that the Cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace. As well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on the town garbage heap, on a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek, at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers lie and gamble, because that is where he died and what he died about; and that is where church folks should be and what church folks should be about. . . ."

What does this mean for St. James in 2018? You may remember the article in last month's *Epistle* about ECMN's Lay Leadership Day. There was much talk about new things including dinner churches like Southside Abbey in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Table 229 here in the Twin Cities that do, in fact, raise the Cross "in the marketplace." A local church that was looking for a new home was interested in sharing space with us. But we were too far from the communities to which they minister. We do spend an awful lot of money and time on our building and land. How much building do we really need to do God's work?

What I'm suggesting is that we

use MacLeod's words to significantly strengthen the "service" part of our "worship, learn, and serve" braid. And that we revitalize St. James—the goal of the discernment that we've been doing on and off for some twenty years—by taking the Cross to the marketplace or, in any event, far outside of and far more often than a few hours on Sunday mornings at 3225 East Minnehaha Parkway. That is, after all, the whole point of Jesus' teaching.

What does this mean? We know that average attendance at St. James is 57 for both services on a Sunday morning. We know that, nationwide, the average churchgoer who considers themselves a "regular" churchgoer goes to church every three weeks. We know that people's church life isn't what it was when St. James was at its peak sixty years ago and that the world, and the church world, has changed. *And we know that what creates the most excitement at St. James—and outside of St. James—is what we do outside of St. James and not on Sunday mornings.* Rather than mining the neighborhood for lapsed Episcopalians or Episcopalian wannabes who don't know it, I'm suggesting that we take the Cross outside the church and bring people into our ministry by engaging them in community and service.

I have to say, because I'm sure *someone* will think it, even in passing, that I'm not suggesting that we de-emphasize worship or learning. I am suggesting that we continue and build partnerships—with other neighborhood churches (Minnehaha Food Shelf and Nokomis Serves), with neighborhood groups (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Giving Garden), with Mandala Montessori, and with others that we haven't even thought about and may not know even exist to reinvigorate St. James as a place for community and service from which

the rest will flow.

So how do we do this? We do a lot, and working through Nokomis Serves, we're doing more. But there's not a service committee working together to coordinate our activities. We need a structure. Yes, we need a dreaded committee to coordinate our service ministries within the church and outside of it. Can you chair the Committee? You don't want to chair it? Be on it. Committees aren't your thing? Spearhead a service project. Lead something that we're doing. Start something new. Help one of our partner churches with their ministries. You're not the spearhead type? Do something. Chop veggies, serve, or wash dishes at First Nations Kitchen. Help at the Minnehaha Food Shelf. Give to the Minnehaha Food Shelf. Buy Christmas presents and school supplies or knit for Simpson families. Volunteer for Families Serving Families. Take on a building project. Anyone can scrape and paint. Read to kids at Mandala. Look at the *Nokomis Serves* catalog and see what our partner churches are doing. Does something grab you? Call the contact person. Get involved. In something. Do it regularly.

I know that lots of us are involved in stuff and do it regularly outside of St. James. I happen to be a pensioner and Senior Warden. So I can spend lots of time on church affairs. You may have noticed that! I'm not suggesting that you dump your other activities. But I'm asking you to consider how you—each and every one of you—can help revitalize our Parish as we approach the ninetieth anniversary of our incorporation on September 22, 1928. Throughout all of the discernment that we've done over many years, there's lots of *talk* about what St. James means to us. It's time to *show* what St. James means to us.

From the Junior Warden Pat Morley

And the Junior Warden said “Let There Be Light!”

Hello Friends – Actually it was the Choir who rehearse in the Great Hall on Wednesday evenings who said it because they were having trouble seeing their sheet music. But we have had a need for better, more consistent lighting in that space for a long time so we are finally addressing that this month. We are paying attention to things like brightness and color so as to avoid too cold a feeling in the space but if you feel like there is something different

when you enter some time after April 7, it is likely that is the reason. Due to the challenge of accessing the fixtures we will be using more expensive but far more long lasting and energy efficient LED bulbs in those fixtures.

Some have brought to my attention the presence of ice on the sidewalks in some areas during the spring freeze-thaw cycle. We try to salt those areas every week but be aware it is not part

of our snow removal contract so please bring those areas when you encounter ice and we will try to take care of it as quickly as possible.

Our next work day at St. James will be Saturday, April 7 10 AM and will be indoors working on the lighting in the Great Hall.

Thanks again for all you do at St. James in whatever manner you do it. May the Peace of God be with you always.



Nokomis Serves Spring and the Giving Garden; Plus Lots More

by Tony Morley

Bravely bidding winter adieu, the **Giving Garden** that St. James hosts at the rear of our lawn now awaits volunteers to prep, plant and nurture its 2018 season. April 14 is the first workday, starting mid-morning.

The Garden is “Giving” because its hundred of pounds of veggies and herbs go to two foodshelves nearby. It was started last year by NENA (Nokomis East Neighborhood Association), working together with Ted Gerold, Anne Scheible and others for St. James.

Come in on a workday morning, get your hands dirty, learn some DIY agriculture, strike a blow against hunger together with others from your neighborhood and church. Talk with Ted or Anne for details, or with Lauren Hazenson at NENA—612-724-5652, lauren.hazenson@nokomiseast.org.

Meanwhile, 10 trained St. James volunteers are helping during Easter week as **Families Moving Forward** (FMF) provides overnight shelter housing for four home-

less families at Lake Nokomis Lutheran church. There are more volunteer opportunities here, too, and another shelter-housing week scheduled for August. Again, Anne Scheible knows the details—annebillscheible@gmail.com, or 612-722-0468.

Besides hands-on service through FMF, Beacon Interfaith (the FMF sponsor) is a policy advocate on Minnesota housing and homeless issues. To learn more and perhaps lend a hand, phone or email Kat Vann: kvann@beaconinterfaith.org or 651-789-6260 x 214.

Finally, May 6 and June 24 St. James will help prepare, serve and clean up at **First Nations Kitchen**, All Saints Indian Mission. Details coming in Sunday bulletins, Thursday emails and the May *Epistle*.

Nokomis Serves is an Episcopal-Lutheran-Methodist collaboration in community service by three neighborhood congregations. On the ushers table is a catalogue of all three churches’ service opportunities. Pick one up, and browse!

Adult Forum: Jesus and Culture; Jesus and Kids

On Sundays in April Adult Forum will think and talk about different ways in different centuries that people have made Jesus real for their times. And early in May we'll get a whiff of one way that St. James makes Jesus real for young children today.

Jesus and culture have flirted or fenced ever since the Resurrection. A modern church scholar, Jaroslav Pelikan, has taken a look at how Jesus and the culture have shaped each other in different times and places. Adult Forum will use some Pelikan ideas to start discussion. And of course we'll ask how Jesus and our culture get along too. That's April 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Then on May 6, Rosemary Caspar will help the Forum to wonder the way young children wonder when they meet Jesus (and vice versa) in the Easter stories. That's called "Godly Play." Rosemary's been doing it with St. James kids for years. If it works with tots, Debbie Ramos asked, why not try it with grown-ups too? On May 6 we will.

Adult Forum meets almost every Sunday in Chapel Hall from 9:30-10:25 AM. It's easy to be part of. We start with something familiar in our tradition, then poke and probe it together for new questions and better understandings. Coffee and self-provided treats are part of the curriculum. Discussion usually led by Tony Morley, but the model is to learn from each other. Try it. We want your help too!

How The Heck Long Is This Transition Going To Be?

By Louis Hoffman

You may have noticed that our Transition Priest has now been with us for nineteen months and that there's been nary a peep from your Vestry about moving beyond the transition to a "permanent" Rector. The previous Vestry talked about this last year and agreed that it wasn't time for a change. The current Vestry, at its March meeting, talked about it again, agreed, and decided to explain to the congregation why:

- We like Fr. William and he likes us.
- ECMN, via Missioner for Ministry Canon Karen Olson, is happy with the current arrangement. This presumably means that the Bishop is happy. They like what's going on at St. James.
- We've discerned, discerned, and discerned more. We know what we know and what we don't – and perhaps can't – know. We're moving

forward. Although it may not seem like it. Better to look when we have a better idea what direction we're going and what skills might best suit us as we move in that direction.

- The Plan for 2018 which the Vestry will look at at its April 10 meeting, will, I hope, result in us having a clearer path forward by the end of the year. So the Vestry (and Fr. William) will no doubt talk about this as we move forward.

You may have questions about this or want more information. Please see me after the 10:30 a.m. service, call me at 612-618-7206, or e-mail me at hoffman.louis@comcast.net. And please don't forget that Vestry meetings (which are at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the lower level of the Education Annex by the way) are open to the public. Agendas are posted at various locations in the church and, along with Vestry minutes, are attached to your Weekly E-Mail.

Treasurer's Financial Report — January-February

This financial summary covers just two months. Actually, a pretty good two months. That (red ink) in the lower right corner is mostly a result of guessing wrong about how

parishioners would schedule their pledges. As people catch up, the (red) should turn black.

— Tony Morley

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	over / (under)
Pledged Income	39,611	34,005	(5,606)
Other Income	13,711	14,104	393
Total Income	53,322	48,109	(5,213)
Expenses	32,895	33,168	(273)
Net	20,427	14,941	(5,486)

The Bonds That Build Homes

By Louis Hoffman

On Monday, April 2, twelve St. Jamesians will be joining our neighbors at Lake Nokomis Lutheran in hosting four homeless families transitioning to permanent housing through Beacon Interfaith's Families Moving Forward (FMF) program. This is the fourth year that Lake Nokomis Lutheran (LNL) is participating in FMF. This year they've added a second week and asked Minnehaha United Methodist (MUM) and St. James to help as part of our Nokomis Serves partnership. Beacon supports homeless families' transition into permanent housing. It builds housing. And it advocates for affordable housing to be built. For more information about Beacon, please visit them at www.beaconinterfaith.org.

If you're interested in the issue of homelessness and housing, please join people from LNL and dozens of other faith organizations who participate in Beacon's ministry for its Legislative Action gathering. It's at 3:00 PM on

Sunday, April 15 at First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Avenue South in Minneapolis. Senators Champion, Hayden, and Pappas and Representatives Dehn, Hanson, Hausman, and Omar will be there. At issue is Beacon's effort to lobby the Legislature to approve \$140,000,000 for 4,600 affordable homes in this year's Bonding Bill. The Bonding Bill the biennial vehicle by which the Legislature issues nearly \$1 billion in bonds to finance projects statewide. Please register for Legislative Action at beaconinterfaith.org/advocate.

For those interested in participating in Families Moving Forward next time, the next LNL, MUM, St. James week will be the week of Sunday evening, August 5 to Sunday morning, August 12. There'll probably be a night when St. James is the lead. But you're more than welcome to volunteer any or all nights and for set up and take down. Look for more information this summer.



Volunteers from Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Minnehaha United Methodist, and a large St. James contingent at our orientation at LNL before hosting families on Monday, April 1. We're helping LNL, which will host four families for the week who are transitioning to permanent housing, through this Beacon Interfaith Housing program.



Did You Know?

By Louis Hoffman

Did you know that the minimum age to be a Warden is 21 but that the minimum age to serve on the Vestry and vote at the Annual Meeting is 16? By-laws of St. James Episcopal Church, Article II.2 and Article IV.2 (b) and (c). Let's just say that the average age of the Vestry is a bit higher than 16 or 21. Even higher than 16 and 21. Combined.

Did you also know that the land upon which our church was built was bought from the Board of Education of the City of Minneapolis in two transactions? The first was on August 8, 1939 when the St. James Parish of the City of Minneapolis bought Lots 1, 2, and 3 (the three lots closest to 33rd Avenue South) in Block 2 of the Minnehaha Parkway Addition to Minneapolis. The second was on January 29, 1946 when we bought Lot 4 in Block 2 (the lot that has the Giving Garden and the parking lot). Total cost? \$2,500 for the first three lots and \$800 for the last lot.

Did you also know that, in searching for the deed to our property we found lots of interesting artifacts, documents, and pictures? Much of our archive is located in the "dry room." The "dry room" is the closet under the stairwell in the southeast corner of the Main Church to the left of the Library. Given our water issues (is there perhaps a reason that our four lots were the last to sell?), this is one place in the basement that never gets water. So it's chock full of some really fun stuff. It'd be great if our librarians, who know what they're doing, and other people who have an interest in the history of the Parish would exhumate this treasure trove, catalog it, and maybe put together a display to share it with the congregation?

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

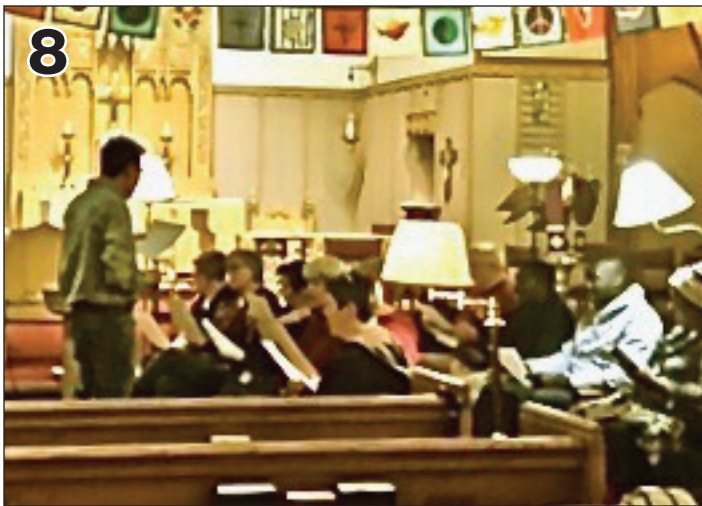
Bonne Nouvelle in Minnesota March 2-13, 2018





Captions

1. Airport Arrival at 1:00 AM
2. Kenwood Retirement Community
3. Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland
4. Snowball Fight
5. An Evening of Friendship
6. Anwatin Middle School – Minneapolis
7. Snowmobiling on the North Shore
8. St. James Choir Rehearsal
9. Sunday Night Bowling
10. Father of Waters – Minneapolis City Hall
11. With City Council Member, Andrew Johnson



FREE DINNER Wednesday, May 2nd: 5:30-7:00 PM

Pulled Pork and All the Trimmings*!

You've no doubt heard the expression that there's no such thing as a free lunch. Is the concept behind that expression limited to lunch? We think so. Because volunteers from Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Living Table United Church of Christ, and St. James will be treating you to a scrumptious dinner at Lake Nokomis Lutheran from 5:30 to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 2.

There is, indeed, "a catch." But the dinner is still free! The catch, you ask? You may recall a letter you got in early January from Fr. William and then-Senior Warden Neal Cuthbert about conversations among our three churches about sharing administration, faith formation, property, and service to enable all three congregations to better live out their missions. This dinner will bring members of the three churches together in a low-key social setting to meet each other.

This means that we'll actually strongly suggest that you sit so that there's a Congregationalist on one side of you and a Lutheran on the other. This shouldn't be too difficult for us at St. James in that our Transition Priest is, in fact, a Lutheran. Just so there's fair warning, each of the three clergy will speak very briefly and a member of the planning group will, again briefly, talk about what we're talking about and why.

It's free. But we want to have the right amount of food. **Please sign up** on the sheet posted on the east Chapel Hall door, e-mail your attendance to [hoffman.louis@comcast.net](mailto:louis@comcast.net), or call Louis Hoffman at 612-618-7206 **by Sunday, April 29.**

**There will be a variety of dairy-free, gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. If you're interested in any of them, please so indicate when you sign up.*



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St. James on the Parkway

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A Community Growing in Christ,
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