



The Epistle

January 2018

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

Investing in the future of St. James

The Rev. William Heisley

Every time I see one of those eye and geometry teasing games that asks you how many squares or how many triangles are in the lines that are in front of me I step up to the challenge. I can do this! So much going on in such a small design with so few lines. "Wait! There's another rectangle." I love playing eye games.

That's the way parish life is, I've decided. There are so many different things going on with the four lines that are the congregation. There is the choir and there are various leadership groups and there are constantly moving and growing relationships between persons. It's fascinating to look at a congregation and to admire the number of sub-groups that are enclosed within those few simple lines.

At St. James the year 2018 brings ongoing tasks to accomplish, step by step. Discover one line, one shape at a time, mark it well, and move on. Oh, and also revisit, making sure that the lines are working where they are drawn. Maybe redraw them if it seems like it would help.

Perhaps I'm being too abstruse. Our Acorn 20/20 committee showed us that there are more possibilities for our future than anyone would have dared to dream. The work of sorting them out goes on – defining one more shape after another within the basic shape of the parish. Rethinking and discussing so many ideas for how we might realign things, from where meetings take place in the building to how much money we

can spend on maintenance and repair, to should we upgrade, to forming new groups, to developing new ministries in cooperation with other congregations, to...the list goes on and on.

In case you think that nothing is happening at little SJOP, be assured that is lots going on. Thoughtful people willing to give of their time and talent, willing to agree to disagree, willing to work their powers to persuade others of their position, willing to look inside the box formed by the four exterior lines and see a multiplicity of other boxes, all of them ours. All of them us.

It's an exciting time to be at St. James, because St. James is exciting. And I don't mean the venerable building. I mean the people. Exciting people.

That's what St. James is: people worshipping, learning, and serving together to the greater glory of the newborn Jesus. People investing in the future not because it is as sure thing, but because it isn't!

Oh, there is this, of course: God's love, the power and indwelling inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus for us and with us and among us, these gracious mercies are absolutely sure, certainly absolute. But our next steps? We listen to the Spirit talking through each other and we reach out in tender compassion to an aching world and we always, we always give thanks.

Thanks, because God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is working a new thing in us: our future.

Adult Forum, January: New Questions about Old Words

Adult Forum in January will mix challenging old words with challenging new questions asked by modern church members. The old words are often laid down for children to memorize — Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments. They are historic pillars of doctrine, worship and morals in the church.

The new questions are ones we all ask: how does this apply in our lives today?

Come join a nourishing, lively Sunday-morning exploration: Creed (Jan. 7); Lord's Prayer (Jan. 14); Ten Commandments (Jan. 21). Chapel Hall, 9:30-10:25. Discussion opened and led by Tony Morley.

February Epistle

Send articles to Beth Harvey
(stjamesotp@comcast.net
and bhpens@mac.com) by
Wednesday, January 24.

From the Senior Warden Neal Cuthbert

Spirit-filled, Reflecting Time of Year

Dear Friends,

In a couple short weeks we will be having our annual meeting on January 28th. Routine things will happen and big things will happen. On the routine side of things you will be electing some new vestry members, some delegates to the annual convention, and receiving a budget for 2018. Of these routine things the budget might be the biggest deal, but it is similar to past budgets in that it is an expression of the fragility and endurance of this parish. The fragility because our budget is increasingly dependent on a very few sources of income from our tenant, Mandala, a few parishioners who give a lot and a lot who give what they can, and a draw from our endowment created by the estate of former parishioner Irene Dahl. It balances on this razor edge of limited resources and it is subject to toppling by an excessive season of snowfalls, a failed furnace or roof, or a major pledger that moves. Within this beautiful fragility is an inspiring spirit that reaches into our parish to create a wonderful choir and music program, an annual pageant and events, and spirited discussions and relationships. This spirit then reaches farther out to partner with other faiths, to help those in need in our community, and even farther out to embrace friends and loved ones in Haiti. It's an amazing thing. And this is just the routine stuff that this budget and parish does. But there's big stuff at the annual meeting too.

The big stuff at this annual meeting is that we will be receiving a report that gives us, for the first time, data and analysis on the condition and needs of our lovely and quirky campus of buildings. The vestry saw the report at its last meeting and it is both illuminating and overwhelming. While the essence of the report is that the building is in decent shape, it also lets us know that there's a

lot of deferred and important maintenance it dearly needs. This is what may be beyond our reach. That is what we and your new vestry will now ponder.

So, at the start of this new year, with new vestry leadership in place, and a church that is at once fragile and energetic, led by a lovely and unexpected Lutheran priest who fits us like a glove, I am hope-filled. This is a parish filled with a beauty of spirit and individuals who come together in community to bring something unique in to our

world. Over the next many months, as we consider the report, as we look at partnerships in our neighborhood and community, it is important to remember why we exist as a community. It is to be guided by the spirit and manifest its presence in our lives and in our world. Together we can.

Thank you for letting me be your senior warden these past many years.

In the Spirit,
Neal Cuthbert
Senior Warden

Service at St. James

by Anne Scheible

Families Moving Forward Training

Are you new to Families Moving Forward and want to learn how to be a good host to your guests? Have you volunteered for years and want a refresher?

Beacon Interfaith is training FMF host volunteers at Lake Nokomis Lutheran on Saturday, January 13th from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

The date is coming up fast, so please register today: Online signup at: <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/fmf-host-and-refresher-training-1> or contact Robbie Becker at 612-721-2768. This is a great way to learn how to practice hospitality, and to hear what's worked well at other congregations. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Remember: our two 2018 host weeks are April 1-8 and August 5-12.

Thank You

Thank you for all the support you have shown for community service projects at St. James. Our cash and food donations along with those of the other supporting churches made it possible for the Minnehaha Food Shelf to make it through the holiday season successfully. Thanks to all who donated. Also, many people have volunteered or brought in items throughout the year for First Nations Kitchen, the Giving Garden, Simpson House, and Longfellow School. Thank you for all those efforts as well.

Minnehaha Food Shelf Fundraiser Pasta Dinner January 10th

The Minnehaha Food Shelf Fundraiser Pasta Dinner will be on Wednesday, January 10th from 5:00-7:00 PM at Minnehaha United Methodist Church at 3701 East 50th Street. This is the major fundraiser for the Minnehaha Food Shelf.



Blessing New ECMN Offices January 13th

1101 W. Broadway Avenue
3:30-5:00 PM January 13th

There will be a blessing at 3:30 PM, then you can stay for conversation, tours and food until 5 PM. Learn about the community partners who are doing good work in North Minneapolis, and start feeling at

home in this place, which is yours to use.

Beyond the offices of the Bishop and Missioners, there are multiple new gathering spaces that will accommodate from 6 to 100, office space for partners and a completely remodeled Sammy's Cafe – one of our favorite caterers! We have over

70 off street parking spaces and all of this within minutes from both I-94 and downtown Minneapolis.

Come be part of the blessing of the new ECMN offices. Come explore the space to dream about how it could be a resource to you and your faith community. Come for food and good conversation.

From the Junior Warden Ted Gerold

Assessment Provides Information for Future

This past year, we have continued on our journey to our future as a congregation, as ministers and as stewards. We have accomplished many things together, large and small, and we have seen God's inspiration and bounty. We have strengthened existing partnerships, discovered new ones and have stood in awe at the fruits of these wonderful relationships. In the coming years the journey will continue, with new information, new leadership and great potential. It is a wondrous and exciting time to be a member of St. James on the Parkway!

The long-awaited final report on the state of our building and infrastructure has been received and reviewed by the vestry, and will be presented to the congregation at the January annual meeting. This report is not meant to be a definitive roadmap for us to follow. Rather, it is a professional trove of information for us to use as a guide in making decisions and prioritizing our efforts. The outgoing vestry will offer

observations and recommendations to the new vestry for next steps based on the report. The congregation will have the opportunity to review the report and ask questions. Commissioning and receiving this report is an important step, and can be of great benefit to SJOTP. This knowledge is a useful tool for us to use. There should be lively discussion about its findings and recommendations, followed by meaningful action. There are still many steps ahead on our journey. We must remember that some of these steps may be painful and difficult, but will be necessary.

As we consider, plan and take steps into our future, we must also focus on our present realities and be willing to think and act creatively to accommodate our needs and the needs of our partners. With our large sanctuary, could we open up useable space and still have enough seating for our largest holiday services? Can we work with Mandala to use Chapel Hall more

efficiently, while maintaining our desired worship area and their desired classroom space? We should consider these kinds of questions to make the best use of our existing space while we continue to imagine our future.

It has been my great pleasure to serve St. James on the Parkway as Junior Warden these past few years. The vestry, staff and clergy have been extremely supportive and inspiring. The congregation has been amazing in its response to requests for project help, in ways large and small. Critical financial support came quietly and directly and is greatly appreciated. God is always there with us, helping where needed. Whether you were a regular on project days or if you ever helped with any cleanup or maintenance work, you have my heartfelt thanks. Every effort contributes to the success of all. I trust that this support will persist for the next Junior Warden.

Peace to All,
 Ted Gerold

Proposed Candidates for Vestry and Convention Delegates

From the Nominating Committee:
Ruth Anne Olson, chair; Neal Cuthbert,
Ted Gerold, and Anne Scheible

In preparation for the parish annual meeting on January 28, we offer the following slate of candidates for election.

Senior Warden

Term: 2018 - 2019
(1 candidate for 1 position)

Louis Hoffman

4816 Nokomis Ave, Minneapolis

Louis and his family have been members of St. James for 20 years. He's served as junior and senior warden, Sunday school teacher, vestry member, eucharistic minister and coordinated the process for welcoming visitors.

Junior Warden

Term: 2018 - 2019
(1 candidate for 1 position)

Patrick Morley

1884 Beechwood Ave, St. Paul

Pat has been a member of St. James since Easter Sunday, 1994. He has served as lay youth leader, junior warden and senior warden and is an active participant in adult education.

Vestry Member

Term: 2017 - 2020
(Note. These two positions were earlier filled by the vestry, on a temporary basis. As per our by-laws, they now require a vote at the Annual Meeting to complete the last two years of their three-year terms. We have 2 candidates for 2 positions.)

Karen Alexander

1081 LaFond Ave, St. Paul

Karen joined St. James in 2004 — was baptized that year at the Easter Vigil. She's been a member of the choir, has served on the service

committee, and coordinated activities in the St. James tent at the 4th of July celebration, This Is America.

Katie Mytty

2525 Rosewood Ln N, Plymouth

Katie has been a member of St. James for more than 70 years. She has served on the vestry, taught Sunday school, sung in the choir, volunteered in the nursery and is an active participant in adult education.

Vestry Member

Term: 2018 - 2021
(2 candidates for 2 positions)

Jeanne LaBore

4825 29th Ave S, Minneapolis

Jeanne has attended St. James since 2001. She sings in the choir, has served on the vestry, been a member of the worship committee and has served as treasurer, and worked on the parish discernment process in 2010.

Jim Larson

3505 35th Ave S, Minneapolis

Jim has been a member of St. James since 2001. He sings in the choir, has served on the vestry, was parish treasurer, taught Sunday school, and served on the education committee.

ECMN Convention Delegates

Term: 2018 - 2021
(4 candidates for 2 positions)

Jinny Bouvette

4547 34th Ave S, Minneapolis

Jinny has been a member of St. James since 1975. She has been our recent delegate to ECMN's annual convention, has

served on the altar guild, given others rides to church, helped with craft fairs and bake sales, and set up for early coffee hour.

Rosemary Caspar

3420 20th Ave S, Minneapolis

A member since 1986, Rosemary has served on the vestry, taught Sunday school and led Godly Play, been director of the Altar Guild and member of the Acorn 2020 team, and has served on a rector search committee.

Jim Gilsenan

4741 16th Ave S, Minneapolis

Debra Ramos

4547 34th Ave S, Minneapolis

Married at St. James, Debra has attended St. James for 29 years. She currently serves on the vestry, and has been our recent delegate to ECMN's annual convention. She's served on a parish search committee to find a new priest and is an active participant in adult education.

Officers

Terms: 2018 - 2019
(As per parish by-laws, the clerk and treasurer are elected by the vestry.)

Clerk

Position is open.

Treasurer

Anthony Morley

825 Summit Ave, Minneapolis

Tony has belonged to St. James since 1988. He has served as treasurer, senior warden, been on the vestry, chaired the education committee, taught Sunday school, and volunteered for a wide variety of service activities.

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

2018 Shapes Up as a Big Travel Year for St. James, Bonne Nouvelle

by Susan Maas on behalf of the St. James Haiti Committee

Happy new year – and happy Haitian Independence Day from the St. James Haiti Committee! On January 1, 1804, Haiti declared its independence from France and became the world's first free black republic. Today, many Haitians celebrate on Jan. 1 with parades, fireworks, dressing up, and dancing.

They also mark Independence Day by cooking and enjoying a food they weren't allowed to eat as slaves: Soup Joumou, or Haitian pumpkin soup. We've included a recipe at the end of this article. But first, an update regarding our partnership with the parish of Bonne Nouvelle in Bigonet!

After the disappointment of the four travel visa rejections this fall, our friends worked quickly to shift gears and implement Plan B. Several folks from our first group of visitors in 2013 still have valid U.S. visas, so a couple of them – including school principal Louis Noncent and community elder Renise Elouis Impert – will travel to Minnesota for a shorter (10-day) visit instead. We will also host a church leader: either the parish priest, Per Sonley, or lay leader Ceder Nelson.

It'll be different than what we originally envisioned, but special in its own way, and we're eager to enlist your involvement! The visit will take place in the first half of March. If you might be interested in providing a bed for a couple of days, helping out as a driver, or hosting a meal in your home, please reach out to a Haiti Committee member: Louise Robinson, Kurt Hall, Ruth Anne Olson, Susan Maas, Liz Athorn, Mary Heltsley, Karen Murdock, or Fr. William.

Just a few months later, we'll be reversing host/guest roles again when St. James sends a delegation of visitors to Bigonet! Interested in exploring this possibility? Let one of us know, and

we'll be happy to answer any questions you might have. Planning for that trip has barely begun; it'll likely take place in mid/late June. All ages welcome!

Soup Joumou – Haitian pumpkin soup

Serving Size: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 lb corned beef or beef stew meat (you can use chicken or goat as well)
- water
- 1 1/2 lbs pumpkin, peeled & diced
- 2 turnips, diced
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 sprig parsley
- 1 sprig thyme
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 cup milk
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3/4 cup rice, washed (uncooked, not instant)
- salt
- 3/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2-4 teaspoons butter

Instructions:

In a saucepan, cover beef generously with water and boil over medium low heat, partially covered for 1 hour.

Drain and chop beef into bite-sized pieces.

In a saucepan, bring 4 cups of water to a boil; add pumpkin, turnips, beef, onions, parsley, thyme, and 2 cloves garlic.

Simmer until pumpkin is tender (15 minutes).



Discard parsley and thyme.

Transfer pumpkin to food processor with 1/4 cup stock and puree.

Return to saucepan and heat through.

Add milk, nutmeg, butter, and rice; cook until rice is tender (15-20 minutes).

Season with salt and pepper, and mix in remaining garlic.

Serve hot with a little butter in each bowl.



Building Bridges *for a Bold Dream*

28TH ANNUAL *MLK Holiday Breakfast*

Monday, January 15th • 7 - 9:30 AM • \$5.00

Judson Memorial Baptist Church • 4101 Harriet Ave, Minneapolis

An opportunity for St. James
WORSHIP • LEARN • SERVE
As part of St. James' 3-part braid,
St. Jamesians attend together the MLK breakfast

Register now at: interfaithaction.org/mlk
Scroll down to 'South Minneapolis'.

This year's keynote speaker is David Oyelowo, lead actor in *Selma*. To make this celebration accessible to all in the Twin Cities, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul hosts neighborhood breakfasts featuring live broadcast of the Convention Center event and local programming.



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St. James on the Parkway**

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Called to Worship, Learn, and Serve.