



The Epistle

August 2016

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

The Hour of Banquet and Song

Grace Notes from Your Rector

The Rev. Jim Young

*This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.*

It is no secret that for me, hospitality and the sharing of meals has become much, much more than a social grace. Over the years, it has acquired a far more mystical significance. The act of sharing a meal has profound sacramental meaning to those who are open to such mysteries. I have been privileged to share many meals with you, some in celebration of joyous occasions like baptisms, confirmations, marriages, anniversaries and birthdays. Others have been sadder but no less important – deaths, retirements, moving away, etc. Throughout all these passages of life, I have been honored to be your rector. I cannot begin to express my joy in sharing all of these many meals marking the milestones with you. But none can surpass the mystical bonds that I have experienced weekly in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with all of you.

*Too soon we rise; we go our several ways;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone,
the Bread and Wine consumed: yet all our days
thou still art here with us—our Shield and Sun.*

My decision to retire was a difficult one that I arrived at after a time marked by deep prayer and deliberation. There is no doubt that the time of my departure will be a sad one, but I do so knowing that we can never be



fully and completely parted. The people of St. James on the Parkway will always hold a place in my heart and that whenever and wherever the sacred feast of the Eucharist is celebrated we are still united in bonds of love and affection. I am grateful for the gift of that brief, bright time of fellowship that we have shared with one another.

*Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving us foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.*

Hymnal 317

Yours in Christ,
Jim +

Worship at the Falls

Our summer opportunity to worship with our partners in ministry at the Minnehaha Falls bandshell will be Sunday, August 7. There will be no services at St. James on that date.



From the Senior Warden Neal Cuthbert

Transition and Change Coming Celebration Planned for August 28th

Dear Friends,

By now you all have heard the news that our dear friend and shepherd, Rev. Jim Young, will be leaving us as of September 1. To those of us who work closely with Jim this news was both a surprise, because it represents a real transition and change for us as a parish, but also not a surprise, because of our shared knowledge of some of Jim's health concerns and also career trajectory. We are certainly sad about his departure, but we know that for St. James Jim was the perfect guy at the right time. We all have an enormous amount of gratitude for his calm steady caring hand and a leadership style that both demonstrated strength but also gave strength to others to step forward during these past five years. Please make sure you mark Sunday August 28th on your calendars as this will be Jim's final service and we will be planning celebratory events to mark his years of service with us.

So, a question and observation you might have is: There's a lot going on with the parish and isn't this a bad time for a major leadership transition? On the surface perhaps, but I'm in complete agreement with Jim and other members of the vestry who all feel that while there's a lot going on with all of our ongoing activities, as well as the work of the Acorn 2020 committee, the key leadership on all these fronts is from members of the parish. Jim has known that for these efforts to truly succeed, the energy and will has to come from the parish, which is certainly true for Acorn and all the many blessings at St. James. His wisdom around this sets us up in the best possible way.

We have been assured by the leadership at the Episcopal Church of Minnesota (ECM) that an interim priest will be appointed with relative dispatch, and that the interim period will likely be a short one. The staff at the ECM feel very excited about

where St. James is as a community, and because we have done so much reflection and discernment recently as part of the prior transition and Acorn, we will not have to be doing any additional preparation or generation of documents for their part of the process. Which is all wonderful and will speed the process of having a new person join our continuing journey soon!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, email, or talk with me or any other member of the vestry. And please make sure you come on August 28th to wish Jim well, and if you can't make that date, please express your appreciation to him when and where you can!!!!

In Peace,

Neal Cuthbert
Senior Warden



St. James is a pickup location for Twin Cities Local Food, an online, year-round Farmers Market:
twincitieslocalfood.com

Order seasonal produce, grass-fed meats, dairy, grains, oils & more online, pickup at St. James from 3:30-6:30 pm the first and third Thursdays, November-April and every Thursday, May-October.



Nursery Seeks Volunteers

History Sleuth



by Ruth Anne Olson

Keep your eye on this column in the September *Epistle*, when Mary Nease will write about her love of Rose Windows in general, and St. James Rose Window in particular. Maybe by then, too, I'll be able to report some of the history of ours.

In the meantime, send me an email (olson248@gmail.com) about a St. James artifact that you're curious about. I promise to try to find out something about it and report back in a future *Epistle*.

September *Epistle*

Send articles for the September *Epistle* to Beth Harvey (stjamesotp@comcast.net and bhpens@mac.com) by Wednesday, August 17. Publication on August 26.



Calling All Knitters and Crocheters (and Wannabees!)

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Or would you, perhaps, like to learn? Simpson House will be in need of scarves and hats to distribute to their clients when the weather turns colder.

If you're in need of a pattern, see Dawnlynn, she has simple patterns for hats and scarves.

What? You don't know how to knit or crochet? That's ok! See Dawnlynn, she's happy to teach either one to you. Her patterns are perfect for beginners! You can either catch her at church on just about any given Sunday, or you can email her at deacondawnlynn@comcast.net.



Back To School Time

St. James on the Parkway will be collecting school supplies to be given to Simpson Housing Services for distribution to their clients. Items needed include backpacks, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, boxes of facial tissues, ziplock bags (quart and gallon size), 3 ring binders and filler paper. In addition to traditional school supplies, we would also like to provide new socks and underwear for the students. We will be collecting these items in August. Watch for more details to come.

The Building, the Budget, Perhaps a Partner; Five sectors chosen for exploration

The building, the budget and prospecting for partners dominated the meeting of Acorn 2020 on June 22. Acorn has agreed already on the need for a strong partnership with a strong institution to address the building and budget realities. In June the group settled on five areas of interest in which to seek a companion institution compatible with St. James history and values. For each of the five, Acorn invites interested parishioners to help with the search.

The five areas reflect Acorn's discussion and analysis of many dozen "brainstorm" suggestions at the Palm Sunday parish luncheon in March. Each area has a designated Acorn liaison.

Children's Education

One interest area is children's education. Mandala Montessori school is already at St. James as a several-years tenant renting and sharing space. Rosemary Caspar will explore expanding that relationship with Mandala as a long-term partnership. She also will approach Breck School for possible interest in developing an in-the-city pre-school at St. James' location in partnership with the parish to redevelop the building and grounds. Breck is an Episcopal school.

Neighborhood Congregations

Another exploration is with the Lutheran and Methodist neighborhood congregations long collaborative with St. James at the clergy

level. They too face real-estate and budget challenges similar to St. James' but less severe. Tony Morley will seek discussion with those churches of possible ways to strengthen each in its worship tradition by addressing together some common program interests and problems.

Ethnic or Racial Episcopal Congregations

Third, following a suggestion from the diocese, Acorn will reach out to other Episcopal parishes. Exploration will start with two ethnic or racial Episcopal congregations with which St. James has had important relationships in the past: Holy Trinity parish and All Saints Indian Mission. Might there be a feasible partnership with either or both of these? The question arises from desires expressed on Palm Sunday for ongoing connection with nonwhite communities and organizations. Anne Scheible and Victor Gonzales will follow up.

Muslim-Jewish-Christian Center

A new brainstorm idea from Palm Sunday is to talk with local Muslim and Jewish organizations about developing the St. James site as a Muslim-Jewish-Christian center. Acorn wants to research the possibility of a partnership for that purpose, and Ruth Anne Olson has offered to lead an exploration team. Anne Scheible will be the Acorn liaison.

Arts-Oriented Neighborhood Center

Music and the arts are a fifth area of strong interest, leadership and talent at St. James. An oft-expressed vision is of the parish as partner in an arts-oriented neighborhood center. Acorn encourages that vision and wants others in the parish to help pursue it, Joe Ordos will begin a search for energetic arts supporters to help with the task.

(An earlier interest in potential partnership with Episcopal Church Homes (ECH) to redevelop the St. James site is now off the table. The idea and location are attractive, ECH has told Acorn, but the equity funding needed is simply not available now.)

Acorn 2020 meets monthly. Its nine members are Victor Gonzales and Tony Kloiber (co-chairs), Rosemary Caspar, Louis Hoffman, Aileen Johnson, Jim Larson, Tony Morley, Joe Ordos and Anne Scheible. Next meeting August 24.

Food Shelf Summer Donations



Minnehaha Food Shelf needs donations to meet the unique demands of summer. During the summer the number of children relying on the food shelf for their meals increases because the families “turn to food shelves to replace the free school meals they are no longer getting.”¹

Although canned and packaged goods are always welcome, the food shelf can stretch cash further than donations of food. You can write checks and place them in the collection plate. Be sure to clearly mark the check for the Minnehaha Food Shelf on the memo line. Or you can mail the check directly to the Minnehaha Food Shelf, c/o Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55417. For further information, check the bulletin board and brochures in the narthex.

¹ Source: bringmethenews.com, by Adam Uren, April 17, 2015.



Members of St. James may make requests for flowers to honor a birthday, anniversary, baptism or in memory of a loved one. With at least 2 weeks notice fresh flowers will be used instead of silk arrangements. Here is the procedure for requesting fresh flowers:

- 1.** Contact Beth by email at stjamesotp@comcast.net and bhpens@mac.com or phone at 612-724-3425 or 612-250-9795 and let her know the date you are requesting flowers for. Please give us at least 2 weeks notice. Please provide the name(s) of the person you are honoring. This will be printed in the bulletin on the Sunday you are requesting a flower memorial.
- 2.** For one vase of flowers make a payment of \$20, which can be included with a pledge payment or separately. After the 10:30 service you will be given the flowers you have requested.
- 3.** Beth will contact me to let me know that fresh flowers have been requested. You can also let me know yourself! I will arrange for flowers from Soderberg's or another flower supplier.

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

St. James Delegation Enjoys Bonne Nouvelle Warmth, Hospitality

They're back!

First-time travelers Kurt Hall – with teens Mae LaFavor (from partner parish Trinity Lutheran in Hovland), Declan McGuire, and Will Scofield – joined veteran Haiti traveler Louise Robinson in June for a visit with our partners in Bonne Nouvelle parish, Bigonet, Haiti.

They returned from their nine-day visit on June 24 filled with stories and warm wishes from our friends – and carrying lots of lovely Haitian art.

The group's visit also included time in Jacmel, at the family home of our longtime interpreter Roulio Lundy, and in Port-au-Prince – with a side trip to the artists' colony of Croix-des-Bouquets. Roulio, his wife and fellow interpreter Maria, and their two young daughters accompanied the five throughout their journey.

The bulk of the trip was spent in Bigonet, where the delegation visited Bonne Nouvelle School, sat in on a teachers' meeting and at-

tended Sunday liturgy. The teens experienced lots of unanticipated adventures, too: Riding motorcycles through the riverbed; running through a torrential downpour; perusing river rock sculpture made by local artists. And mostly, deepening relationships with old friends and new in Bigonet: people they've met on Bonne Nouvellians' visits to Minneapolis, and many, many new zanmi.

"Driving in the riverbed was really cool; it reminded me of my drive to my house!"

says Hovland resident Mae LaFavor. "I loved getting to go to the classrooms and seeing the children sing songs in English or Creole because they had special guests come to their school."

Will was struck by the Bonne Nouvellian "focus on community, rather than the individual." Despite stark differences in material conditions, "human values of compassion, family, and hope" flourish in Bigonet. "Happiness doesn't come from material wealth," he saw, again and again.



Meeting with the teachers of Bonne Nouvelle.

Kurt was moved by the loving, familial welcome the travelers received. “In church on Sunday, we had so many folks come up to us after the service and give us hugs and kisses,” he says. “We truly ARE a part of Bigonet: The bonds that have been formed over the past eight years are truly remarkable. Though our daily lives are vastly different, the things we have in common far outweigh the differences.”

After enjoying the generous hospitality of their hosts, the group spent a

▼ Visiting a pre-school classroom in Bonne Nouvelle.

relaxing and fun few days on the Jacmel seashore at the Lundy family compound. They cooled off at the beach and at a national park, Bassin-Bleu, which boasts a mango grove, several waterfalls, and three crystal-clear natural blue pools.

Ceder Nelson Returns as Lay Leader

Many of you may remember Ceder Nelson, the lay leader of Bonne Nouvelle, who was one of our visitors when we first welcomed our partners to Minnesota in January 2013. Ceder has spent his life in the church and had been

lay leader for Bonne Nouvelle for decades. It’s clear that he fills many leadership roles in the community, and this had been one of them.

Without getting into specifics, controversy arose between Ceder and the vestry of the church, and Pèr Delicat in 2013. It was a complicated situation for Ceder and for the community, and the result at the time was for Ceder to be removed from his position as lay leader. One of his assistants, Evens Benoit (who was one of our visitors in May 2015), assumed the role temporarily.

But “temporarily” turned into a few years! A bit of

stubbornness was a part of both sides of the equation, we fear. But we’re pleased to share that Evens recently chose to step out of the role of lay leader, the community petitioned to have Ceder re-instated, and that officially took place on July 10 of this year. Evens continues as Ceder’s assistant, along with one of the teachers from the school.

We’re happy that our friend is able to resume a role for which he is so well suited, that his return commands the support of the community, and that he’ll continue to be assisted by those with which he has worked for many years.



Commerce along the Comier River, which we drive through to get to Bigonet.



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St. James on the Parkway**

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