



# The Epistle

July 2016

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

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

## The Episcopal Church and the founding of the United States of America

*When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with one another...*

These are the opening words of the Declaration of Independence. To any other country in the world, the fourth of July is just another day. To the citizens of this country it is Independence Day. The Episcopal Church, more than any other denomination, is closely associated with the founding of the United States of America. This is mainly due to the influence of the Church of England in the lives of the colonists who eventually became the first Americans. Once the war for independence was ended, the Church of England left and those Anglicans who remained here in the new nation founded a new church that was called the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. (See this month's EpiscoSpeak for more on this.)

Thus the Episcopal Church is one of this country's oldest denominations. More than one quarter of all



### Grace Notes from Your Rector

The Rev. Jim Young

US presidents and more than one half of all Supreme Court justices have been Episcopalians. The Declaration of Independence has the signatures of 32 Episcopalians, and the Constitution of the United States bears 21 signers who were Episcopalians. The first US Federal Congress (1789-1791) had 24 Episcopal representatives, and 13 senators.

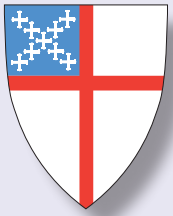
Unlike Minnesota, I grew up in a town (in Ohio) that didn't have a Lutheran church in it. The demographics represent the settlement pattern of the rapidly growing nation in the 19th century. Most Episcopalians remained in the older established states in the eastern third of the nation. Minnesota's incoming residents in the 19th century came from nations that were predominantly Lutheran or Catholic (eg. Ireland, Germany and the Scandinavian nations). As a result today, the population of Minnesota is roughly 24% Lutheran and 25% Catholic. Minnesota Episcopalians comprise less than 1% of the population of this state!

I bring up these semi-useful statistics to point out why the Episcopal Church has been, historically, quite small in Minnesota, but so influential in the history of our nation. I hope that you will think on the historic importance of the Episcopal Church in our country and be proud this Independence Day.

Yours in Christ,  
Jim+

### An Unintentionally Well-Kept Secret

Recently I happened to say to a member of St. James that I had just finished uploading my most recent sermon recording to the website. To which the reply was, "What? I didn't know that!!" The conversation revealed that I may well have done a very risky thing and that was to assume that it is common knowledge that we routinely record the sermons nearly every Sunday and that the audio files are posted on our website for your listening and dancing pleasure. So, I am telling you now. In fact we have recordings of most sermons available to you on our website ([www.stjamesotp.org](http://www.stjamesotp.org)) going back to the spring of 2015.



# Episco-Speak

## A Guide to the Language of Episcopalians

*You say you don't know your apse from your clerestory? Well, don't despair! Help is here. Each month your rector will attempt to dazzle you with his command of the vocabulary of Anglicans and Episcopalians. If there is some term or concept about which you want to learn more, I will also take requests. Please contact me!!*

### This month: PECUSA, ECUSA, TEC... more Epsicopal trivia

A conference of three clergy and twenty-four lay delegates met at Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, on Nov. 9, 1780, and resolved that "the Church formerly known in the Province as the Church of England should now be called the Protestant Episcopal Church." On Aug. 13, 1783, the Maryland clergy met at Annapolis and adopted the name "Protestant Episcopal Church." At the second session of the 1789 General Convention, Sept. 29-Oct. 16, 1789, a Constitution of nine articles was adopted. The new church was called the "Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America" (PECUSA). The word "Protestant" noted that this was a church in the reformation tradition, and the word "Episcopal" noted a characteristic of catholicity, the historic episcopate.

The church has grown from thirteen dioceses to more than one hundred dioceses. It is divided into nine geographical provinces. It is governed by a bicameral General Convention, which meets every three years, and by an Executive Council during interim years. The

General Convention consists of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. The House of Bishops is composed of every bishop with jurisdiction, every bishop coadjutor, every suffragan bishop, every retired bishop, and every bishop elected to an office created by General Convention. All members of the House of Bishops have seat and voice in the House of Bishops. The House of Deputies is composed of up to four lay and four clerical deputies from each of the dioceses. The two top leaders of the church are the Presiding Bishop, who is also called Primate and Chief Pastor, and the president of the House of Deputies. The reason for the similarity to the organization of the federal government (two legislative houses) becomes clearer when you understand that many of the same men who drafted the US Constitution were also Episcopalians who drew up the constitution of the new Episcopal Church.

Interestingly, our church has been quietly re-branding itself over the years. By various actions of General Convention we have gone from PECUSA, to ECUSA, and now finally and simply to The Episcopal Church, i.e. TEC.

### Next month: The Caroline Divines (No, not a former Motown group!)

Stay tuned for another thrilling installment of Episco-Speak!



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

# St. James to Broaden Partnership with Simpson Housing Services

In May, Anne Scheible and the Rev. Dawnlynn Greeney met with John Vodicka of Simpson Housing Services to explore ways in which we could deepen our partnership and ministry to those less fortunate than ourselves. St. James currently provides sandwiches for Simpson House guests.

As expected, there are many needs. In addition to the sandwiches that are provided for lunch, there are many opportunities to provide breakfasts and dinners (which St. James has done in the past). In addition to these needs for food, there are also many other opportunities for St.

James to use its vast array of gifts. John will be coming to St. James in the early fall to do a presentation of their needs, and ways in which we, as a faith community, can use our gifts to meet these needs.

That being said, there are needs that we can start to address now. Each quarter we will be taking donations of items for baskets. First quarter of each year, (on Epiphany Sunday) we will be collecting items needed for new babies. Second quarter we will be collecting cleaning items for families that are moving into housing. Third quarter each year we will collect

school supplies. Lastly, each December we will be providing Christmas gifts for families.

Throughout each year, we will also be asking our knitters and crocheters to make hats and scarves. We will collect these each fall so they can be distributed to the clients of Simpson House.

We are looking for people that are moved to take on the coordination of these ministries. If one of these speaks to your heart, please contact Anne or Dawnlynn.



## Back To School Time

Yes, the calendar says it's still only June. But school will be back in session before you know it!

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.

## 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](mailto:deacondawnlynn@comcast.net).





# Acorn 2020 Opens Search for Possible Partners; Seeks Interested Parishioners' Participation

Since its Palm Sunday parish brainstorming luncheon the Acorn 2020 group has assessed, refined and repackaged dozens of ideas and suggestions related to St. James building issues, finances and the parish program — worship, learn, serve. In all the discussion a constant refrain recurs: St. James needs a working partnership with another strong institution to address the our building and budget realities — and the opportunities envisioned by many parish members.

Beginning its search in earnest, Acorn especially asks that parishioners with a particular interest step forward to help include that inter-

est in planning the parish future. Whether education, community service and social action, the arts, neighborhood outreach or close interreligious collaboration, active individual leadership will be crucial as well as Vestry and Acorn work.

Already a parishioner has offered to help explore possibilities with local Muslim and Jewish communities. Acorn itself is following up on earlier contacts with two neighborhood churches, education ventures and senior housing.

If you have time and energy to contribute, contact any member of the Acorn group: Victor Gonzales

and Tony Kloiber (co-chairs), Rosemary Caspar, Louis Hoffman, Aileen Johnson, Jim Larson, Tony Morley, Joe Ordos and Anne Scheible.

Meanwhile, for itself and for the Vestry Acorn is preparing an overview of St. James finances and financial trends in the past five years and a written summary of deferred-maintenance needs and desirable improvements to make the present building adequate for the varied activities under discussion.

Acorn meets monthly, the fourth Wednesday, in the education wing.

## 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> Source: bringmethenews.com, by Adam Uren, April 17, 2015.

# Service Committee Meeting Report

The Service Committee met on May 22. The meeting began with an overview of the most current service projects at St. James.

## **Simpson Sandwiches –**

St. James makes sandwiches for the clients of Simpson House 2-4 times a year. (report by Sue Maas via email.)

**First Nations Kitchen –** This is a food ministry at All Saint's Episcopal Indian Mission where a Sunday evening meal is served primarily to indigenous families. (report by Dawnlynn Greeney.)

## **Minnehaha Food Shelf –**

St. James, Minnehaha United Methodist Church and Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church support this food shelf in south Minneapolis. (reports by Maxine Richmond and Anne Scheible.)

## **Minne-Harvest and 30 Hour**

**Famine –** Both of these are related to food ministries and activities have been done with the youth at St. James. (report by Pat Morley.)

The goal of the Service Committee is to provide coordination and support for the service projects at

St. James. Since hunger ministries have been the main focus for St. James, we discussed the pros and cons of the parish providing an evening meal at Simpson House vs. First Nations Kitchen. It was decided that Dawnlynn and Anne would meet with Simpson house to gather more information. Also discussed was the need that the Minnehaha Food Shelf has for cash donations and possible approaches to that problem. If any of the above activities call to you, talk to Dawnlynn Greeney or Anne Scheible. In the mean time watch for updates on these programs.



**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](mailto:stjamesotp@comcast.net) and [bhpens@mac.com](mailto: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.

## Thank you from Ed Burke

Thank you very much for the kind sendoff at the beginning of June and the parting gifts both official and unofficial. I have greatly enjoyed my time at St. James and have made many friendships which I hope will last past my departure. May God' be with you and guide you as you discern your way forward for ACORN 2020. – Ed Burke



**Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)**

# Packing for Haiti

As this July *Epistle* goes to press, St. James travelers to Bigonet are deep in the throes of packing. Each has a carry-on bag of personal items, of course: clothing, passport, toothbrush, mosquito net, water bottle, and a Creole dictionary.

Each, too, will take two larger bags, carefully packed to minimize the chance of having to pay extra fees when examined by Haiti's immigration officials. Most of these bags will contain school supplies for Bonne Nouvelle: chalk, pencils and pencil sharpeners, fabric and other sewing supplies,

first aid supplies, water from Lake Superior and the Mississippi River (a special request for BN's 4th grade geography class) and a brand new printer to replace the one purchased many years ago that's now on its last legs.

Gifts for our hosts always get tucked into these bags, too. Two deserve special attention.

One is a sacramental bowl made by artists of our partner parish of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland Minnesota. Made of cherry wood, its colors and shape represent the forests

and waters of Minnesota and celebrate the grace of God's love in our partnership with one another. The photo shows the bowl with three Trinitarians who have traveled with St. James to Haiti: Pastor Kris Garey (2014), David Hahn (2010), Mae LaFavor (2016) and Kathi Johnson (2014).

The second is a sign — not beautiful like the bowl, but significant in its own way. When St. James travelers first visited Bigonet in 2008, Bonne Nouvelle's priest made a special point of showing us a sign that hung on the trail as we approached the

village from the River Cormier. Clearly an object of pride, the sign told passersby that Bigonet is a special place — home to Bonne Nouvelle Church and School. But soon the sign disappeared, apparently destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. Our 2016 travelers are taking a new sign, shown in the photo, modeled after the original.

By the time you read this, St. Jamesians Will Scofield, Declan McGuire, Kurt Hall, Louise Robinson and Trinitarian Mae LaFavor are already home from Haiti. Watch for news about their trip.



Haiti travelers pack their bags





Original sign – 2008

New sign – 2016

Trinitarians with  
sacramental bowl

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

**Fiona Donnelly** –  
DeLaSalle High School

**Radik Hoffman** –  
Roosevelt High School

**Ian Shea** –  
Prior Lake High School



**Ethan Brookner** –  
Washburn High School



**Sorcha McGuire** –  
University of Wisconsin Madison

# History Sleuth

by Ruth Anne Olson

Rosemary Caspar's recent *Epistle* article about the Star Quilt told an interesting piece of our St. James story.

What St. James artifact are you curious about? An architectural detail? An item on the wall or on a window sill? Something you see every week — or that you once saw and has since disappeared?

Send me an email ([olson248@gmail.com](mailto:olson248@gmail.com)) describing your interest, and I'll report what I can find out in an upcoming *Epistle*.



## We're Looking For Volunteers

Can you help? Please call or email the office and let us know. If we have enough people in the mix volunteers would be serving every month to two months. If you have questions about these roles, ask someone who is listed in the bulletin this week or Jim or Beth.

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Bread Bakers
- Closers
- Counters
- Greeters/Ushers
- (LEM) Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Nursery



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A Community Growing in Christ,  
Called to Worship, Learn, and Serve.