



A Letter from St. James'

*The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church
in Mill Creek Hundred, Wilmington, Delaware*

May 2019

St. James' Episcopal Church, Mill Creek Hundred

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

April 28, 2019

After a service at 9:30 AM, the congregation moved to the Parish House for a brunch, provided by the Vestry, and the Annual Meeting.

As members entered the Parish Hall they signed *Thank You* cards for members who are serving in the military: Jim Burns, Maddy Burns, Jake Hudson, Austin Laird, Moriah Niehaus, Ken Phillips, Shawn Sukeena, and Caela Tindilia.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM. Fr. Jim opened the meeting with a spiritual sing along. There were 54 Church members in attendance. David Niehaus led the meeting.

Secretary of the Meeting

A motion was made and approved to appoint Nancy Patterson as Secretary of the Annual Meeting.

Introduction of New Members

There were no new members at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Correction to 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

There was one correction to the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. In the Qualified Charitable Contributions section the correct age to start participating should be 70 1/2 years not 71 1/2.

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and approved to dispense of the reading of the 2018 minutes. The minutes from the April 29, 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as corrected.

Election of Vestry Members

David Niehaus, Sr. Warden of the Vestry, introduced the nominees for election to the Vestry.

Running for 1st Term: Edward Clark, Eileen Marvel, Ian Prescott, Bruce Vrana, and Susan Winward.

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made and approved to accept the slate of candidates. The nominees were elected unanimously.

David Niehaus thanked the Vestry members going off the Vestry for their service. The members going off the Vestry are: Lisa August, Kelsey Hall, David Niehaus, Steven Prescott, and Jenny Vrana. The congregation thanked David Niehaus for his service on the Vestry and his time as Sr. Warden.

There will be a short meeting of the new Vestry in the Lounge following the Annual Meeting.

Annual Treasurer's Report – Steven Prescott, Treasurer

- Steve thanked Sam White, Disbursing Treasurer, for preparing the Reports; Susan Winward, Receiving Treasurer, and the Counters, for all their work; and Allyson Heinold for overseeing the Capital Campaign.
- The Budget Reports were available to members at the meeting.
- The 2018 Revenues were reviewed.
 - Revenues were less than the budgeted amount in 2018.
 - Pledges were down \$9,000.
 - Rent revenues were up in 2018.
 - Preschool Rent
 - Family Promise Rent
 - Renting parking spaces to the apartment complex.
 - A construction company paid \$1,000 per month for use of a section of the parking lot for their staging area.
- Expenses exceeded the budgeted amount for 2018.
 - There was an insurance over payment. St. James' will recoup amount paid in 2018 that was for 2019.
 - There were many property issues in 2018 that caused Property to exceed the amount budgeted.
- The overall financial situation is negative.
 - The 2018 deficit was a little over \$19,000.
 - A CD was cashed to meet the cash flow.
 - There were only 57 pledges in 2018. In 2017 there were 72 pledges.
 - St. James' needs 72 pledge units to break even.
 - The Vestry passed the 2019 Budget with a \$25,000 deficit.
 - This situation has forced St. James' to look at a lot of things about St. James'.
- There were no questions from the congregation.

Committee Reports

Committee chairpersons submitted reports which may be found in the Annual Meeting booklet.

Family Promise – Valerie Brunson

- Valerie extended a thank you to all who have supported Family Promise.
- St. James' just finished a week of hosting Family Promise families.
- There were four families staying at St. James'. All of the families would have been separated if they had gone to traditional programs.
 - There was a family of a mother and her 13 year old daughter
 - Another consisted of a mother and her children who left a dangerous situation. With the help of Family Promise she will be moving from Family Promise this week with her children.
 - All of the children played well together.
 - St. James' creates an environment that makes the families feel safe.
- Overnight Volunteer Elinor Knodel shared her experience.
 - This was her first time to stay overnight.
 - Two overnight volunteers are needed each night. Elinor's partner was Gail Zimmerman.
 - At first Elinor wondered, 'What am I doing here? I'm staying with strangers. This is out of my comfort zone.'
 - Then she listened to the family members.
 - She met brave people with problems.
 - They were all thankful for Family Promise and the volunteers.

- Staying over was a positive experience. Even sleeping on the inflatable mattresses was more comfortable than she thought it would be.
- Staying overnight was a matter of getting out and expanding her comfort zone.
- She recommends other volunteers try staying overnight. It really helps the Family Promise leaders. Maybe find a sleep over buddy.
- The Family Promise Leaders were thanked for all they do.
 - Valerie Brunson – Volunteer Coordinator
 - Eileen Marvel – Laundry Coordinator
 - Nancy Prettyman – Supply Coordinator
 - David Perry – Meal Coordinator

History Committee – Sr. BJ Brown

- Sr. BJ is a committee of one.
- The History Committee is the committee of looking backwards.
- Sr. BJ is obsessed with genealogy and history. She enjoys learning about our history.
- She has been looking through 300 years of St. James' records.
- Working on the unorganized items is keeping her busy.
 - She has been scanning Annual Meeting records from 1976 – 1995. It is a tedious and boring task.
 - She has enjoyed reading through the EYC meetings.
 - During 1986 there were more than 165 active families.
 - There were as many as 85 youth in the Church School.
 - There are hand written Altar Guild minutes from the 1940s.
 - It has been very eye opening.
- It is very important to preserve all of the records. If there was a fire or flood all documented history information could be destroyed.
- Sr. BJ encourages and welcomes anyone who would like to help. They could take some of the documents home and scan them.

Cemetery Committee – Kathy Jackson

- Kathy Jackson and her mom, Marlene, have been doing quite a bit of weeding and gardening in the cemetery.
- It is important to keep the cemetery clean and respectful.
- At this time she is working on cleaning out the compost area.
 - This past week she cleaned out quite a bit.
 - She needs help getting it cleaned up and the debris taken to the compost area on Polly Drummond Hill Road.
 - Kathy and her mom have been doing it but it is getting to be too big of a job for the two of them.

Property Committee – Carolyn Mack

- Quite a bit of the work that needed to be done is being done by members of the Property Committee.
- This has saved St. James a lot of money.
- Members of the committee have installed the LED lights in the Parish House, made various repairs, and worked in the cemetery.
- Members are welcome to give of their time and talents.

Unfinished Business

Tercentennial Capital Campaign – Val Brunson and Jenny Vrana

- The Capital Campaign's five year journey has seen an amazing amount of generosity.
- The total amount raised is \$422,502. Over \$118,000 was from diocesan matching funds and grants.
- The Capital Campaign Committee is very grateful for what everyone did to make the campaign a success.
- Donations were received from former members who have fond memories of their time at St. James'. There are still people who remember us and care/love us.
- Many projects have been completed:
 - The Parish House has a new roof, new windows and front doors.
 - The church has new windows and we are currently focusing on a new roof for the church.
 - Originally the cost of the roof was thought to be around \$100,000. Now that the necessary repairs have been made to the truss the cost is at \$140,000.
- The new roof on the Parish House has allowed Clean Energy USA to install solar panels.
 - Clean Energy supports nonprofit organizations.
 - There is no charge. The company installs and maintains the panels.
 - The solar panels should save St. James' about \$3,500 in electric charges annually.
 - The flat portion of the Parish House roof will be used for the panels.
 - The project should be done in late May or early June.

New Business

Celebrating Fr. Jim and Cynde – Carolyn Joynt

- The congregation thanked Fr. Jim and Cynde for all the good things they have done for St. James'.
- Fr. Jim's final service will be Sunday, June 30th at 9:30 AM.
- Following the service there will be a covered dish luncheon at the Parish House.
 - St. James' will provide the meat and dessert.
 - Members of the congregation will be asked to bring a salad or a vegetable.

Transition – David Niehaus

The Vestry had a brief meeting with Bishop Brown on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The meeting started the Transition process.

- The Bishop highlighted that transition is a natural part of the life of the church.
- Now is the time to celebrate Fr. Jim and Cynde's time with us. We should get into a celebrating time.
 - Share memories with them, happy and sad times.

What happens next? There are several phases of the Transition.

- Closure Phase and Interim Period
 - What do we want to do, interim or substitute?
- Self-Study Phase
 - Meet with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary.
 - What do we want for St. James', what kind of rector?
- Candidate Selection Process
 - Interviewing, matching, have a contract prepared, extend a welcome.
- Welcoming
 - We are St. James', everyone is part of the process.
 - The Bishop emphasized that the Diocese is very involved.

- The diocese does all of the vetting of candidates.
- The Bishop feels St. James' is in a good place and we are strong enough to handle the Transition.

Retirement Party – Carolyn Joynt

There will be Retirement Party for Fr. Jim and Cynde

- Saturday, July 13, 2019
White Clay Creek Country Club
777 Delaware Park Blvd.
- Dinner and Dancing
- Invitations will be sent out by May 18th.
- Save the date.

Senior Warden's Report – David Niehaus

Serving on the Vestry and being Sr. Warden have been great opportunities. St. James' is at a challenging time.

- We have to find a new rector.
- Money continues to be a challenge.
 - Pledges are down.
 - We are spending more day to day.
 - Additional income from renting parking lot spaces,
 - Electrical costs will decrease with the installation of the solar panels.
- How can we attract new people?
 - Invite + Welcome + Connect offers suggestions.
 - Invite a friend or neighbor to attend St. James'.
- The congregation was encouraged to get involved with the committees/ministries of St. James'.
 - There are many opportunities to help as we go forward.
 - When we volunteer there is no room for failure. Even if we make a mistake it can be fixed.

David thanked Fr. Jim for his guidance and willingness to go over and above his responsibilities to help. He thanked his fellow Vestry members for their support and help, the volunteers for all they've done, and the Property Committee for fixing many things and helping in many ways.

Rector's Report – Fr. Jim

Fr. Jim thanked everyone for their help. This will be his 17th and final report. It feels like the years flew by. He spent a lot of time in 2018 discerning when it would be the right time for him to retire. He announced in November that he was retiring effective June 30, 2019.

The time has gone by quickly. His last Sunday will be very emotional. The people of St. James' are like family. He said, Cynde and I thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on us. May you have all the gifts of spirit needed to continue.

The Necrology

The Necrology was read by Fr. Jim.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM with the saying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Patterson

Clerk of the Vestry

A Successful Claudia White Bingo Night



The 10th Annual Claudia White Memorial Bingo Night held on Monday, April 15th was a big success. Everyone had an evening filled with fun, refreshments and fellowship. The event raised over \$800. Repairs and renovations to the Parish House were very close to Claudia's heart and the money will be used for repairs and renovations to the Parish House.

In addition to the cash donations everyone generously donated nonperishable food items for a local food closet. The items will be delivered to St. Mark's Methodist Church for their food closet.

Thank you to all who came to the event and contributed so generously. Your support is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU,

The St. James' Bazaar Ladies



Our next Family Promise host week is Sunday June 2nd. There are several volunteer opportunities available, the sign up sheet is posted in the great hall. We are in need of dinner hosts and overnight hosts especially. If you are not available the week of the second, there are opportunities to provide breakfast and lunch items ahead of time. Additionally, our final host week of the year is August 4th. Thank you for supporting our ministry to help homeless families in our community. Questions: contact Val Brunson at 302-476-5067, email sassycheme@verizon.net.



Reserve your dates for 2019

We do not carry over dates for memorials from year to year. Placing flowers on the altar and or supplying the sanctuary candle for the week are wonderful ways of remembering our loved ones who have passed or celebrating important events in our lives.

Call the office and let us know the dates you would like to reserve in 2018! The cost of Altar Flowers for a week is \$46. During Lent we use dried arrangements and the cost is \$23. The cost of the Sanctuary Candle is \$10 for the week.



We will continue our winter schedule through Memorial Day weekend (5/26). **On June 2, the second service will move to 9:30 am and Lemonade in the Circle will replace coffee hour.** This schedule will be in effect for the months of June, July and August.



*For when two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)*

On Sunday, May 5th and June 2nd members of the prayer team will hold a short prayer service in the church **following the second service** (focusing on the prayer requests left in the basket in the entrance to the church and other concerns of the parish, community, and world.)

Then throughout the month, we will continue collecting prayers at the end of the 2nd service and lifting them up during the week. **All are welcome to participate in this monthly service-usually held on the first Sunday of the month.**

For those who are not able to come to church or have an immediate prayer need, we invite you to email Sister BJ Brown at: sisterbjbrown@gmail.com

Emmanuel Dining Room Ministry

Blessings abound as do opportunities to help
prepare and/or serve our **May 31st lunch**

For each month that has a 31st day (seven months a year), St. James' is responsible for the lunch at Emmanuel Dining Room on Walnut Street. Thanks to the continued generosity of the members of our parish family, each month we are able to provide a healthy homemade meal served with love to about 175-200 men, women, and children in need. Many of you have donated your time, resources, and support of this very important ministry. **THANK YOU!**

As we approach our third lunch for 2019 — May 31st, we are in an excellent position with our funding. We are making another favorite meal of meatball subs, fresh fruit, chips, and homemade cookies and also providing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich as an addition to their meal and/or for our guests to take with them for another meal/snack. **AND**, we do not need to ask for your donations of food items or money, but we are asking if you'd like to join the "making."

If you would like to share in the fellowship of preparing cookies and making sandwiches for our May meal, please join us on Wednesday, May 30th from 9 a.m. to about 11 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen.

If you have questions about what's involved or would like to help serving lunch on May 31st (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) at Emmanuel Dining Room on Walnut Street in Wilmington, please talk with Pat Minor or Cindy Fauerbach or contact Cindy by phone (302) 584-8053 or email cindyfauerbach@verizon.net.

*Mark Your Calendar!
There will be a farewell luncheon
for Fr. Jim and Cynde
on June 30th, their final Sunday at St. James' Mill Creek.
There will be one worship service at 9:30am,
with the luncheon to follow immediately after.*

More details to follow.

May Birthdays

- 3 Kathryn Coverdale
Katie Joynt
- 4 Melissa Idell
Tyler Short
- 5 Sherry Cernos
- 6 Robert Carrow
Shannon McGee
Nathan Sandhauser
- 9 Dick Prettyman
- 10 Becky Perry
- 11 Savannah Clark
- 12 Jonathan Packard

- 13 Cynthia McCauley
Debbie Meadow
- 15 Hannah Cormier
Deacon Herring
Morgan Thomas
- 16 John Taylor
- 17 Ted Prettyman
Dustin Short
Christopher Snyder
- 18 Christopher Rose
- 19 Seth Malusa
Kay Meckelburg
- 20 Peter Tuhy
- 21 John Clark
- 22 Fr. Jim Bimbi
- 23 Eileen Marvel
May Hindsley
- 24 Lois Kelley
Dorianne Short
- 30 Faye Hart
Jeffrey Loveland
Alexander Winward
- 31 Ariana Udinski



May Anniversaries

- 10 Elinor Knodel & Peter Tuhy
Diane & Richard Aichele

