



# STEEPLE NOTES

## *Newsletter for the family and friends of St. James' Episcopal Church*

*The Rev. Robin Martin, Interim Rector*

*The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop Provisional*

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## *July and August 2014*

*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.*

*~ Psalm 138:1*

### ***From the Interim Rector...***

Some thoughts written in my journal a long time ago while on retreat at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual renewal in Wernersville, Pennsylvania on the "Collect for Purity" (page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer) which I say so regularly but, perhaps, seldom pray.

*Almighty God*, – All-powerful One whose power is declared chiefly in showing mercy, help me to use my power, my God-given power, in showing mercy; and I definitely need help receiving mercy from you and from other people...and from myself as well.

*To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:* - In addition to being all-powerful you're also all-knowing which I find rather comforting for at least a couple of reasons. The first is that I've spent so much of my life trying to hide stuff from people which is just another way of saying I've spent a lot of my life being afraid I'd be found out. It's kind of a relief to know my efforts are useless as far as you're concerned. You simply can't be fooled, although you do let me play "the elephant on the dining room table" game, when I insist, about something we both know is true. But even more comforting is knowing that you know all there is to know about me and still love me and accept me and affirm me every time I give you half a chance.

*Cleanse the thoughts of my heart* – I just barely beat the storm back to the house. It turned out to be a little distant thunder, no lightning that I saw and a modest amount of rain preceded by a lot of wind which I had to walk against, of course. I was supposed to be out there in the relative cool of the evening (my choice of time) feeling my connectedness to the whole creation. At the end I felt like Dorothy being blown away to Oz. It's amazing how just a little rain can freshen things up. The air is cool now, and crisper. So what about my heart? It feels easier in this place than it has in a while, but it still doesn't have that lightness I've known before. *Cleanse the thoughts...* Thoughts seem like the dust that collects on the table tops and catches the sunlight so there's no denying the need to do something about it. Very surfacy and easy to address are how the thoughts of my heart feel. It's my gut that needs cleaning---purging of the fact that I'm inept, uncaring, judgmental. Of course, I am all those things and more. But I'm also not just all those things or you'd never have entrusted so much and so many to my care. Could you just please help me hold that thought? Maybe then I can be seriously repentant for some of the seriously nasty things I've done and stop obsessing about the seriously nasty things that have been done to me.

*By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit*, - I'm thinking that the kind of inspiration I need is more like the wind that almost blew me away a little while ago than a gentle breeze that caresses...though gentle breezes are nice and

*(See Rector on page 5)*

## SUNDAY “MATTERS”!

Matter (n.) a situation, state or business Matter (v.) to be of importance

Did you know...

- that St. James Church has 69 children and young people aged pre-school through high school who are eligible to participate in the Sunday School?
- that 53 or 77% of those children and young people registered for Sunday School for the 2013-2014 Sunday School year?
- that based on attendance figures from mid-September through the end of April and factoring out the Sundays when classes were not held
  - a little more than half the time *less* than half the kids were in Sunday School,
  - and a little more than a third of the time *less* than a third of the kids were in Sunday School

There are approximately 31 weeks in the Sunday School year, and if St. James is like most places, that “hour” a week ends up being more like 45 minutes. That means teachers are given about twenty-three and a quarter hours a year to communicate the faith our children in that particular way it happens in Sunday School.

If you take the time (and I invite you to just that) to compare that to the number of hours given over to school...or music/dance/karate/whatever lessons...or soccer...or baseball...or whatever sport you can begin to see what a narrow window of opportunity is available to *“be responsible for seeing that the child you present (for baptism) is brought up in the Christian faith and life,”* something each of us promised for each of these kids when we baptized them.

I’ve written a lot about stewardship of money in the last couple of newsletters, but we also really need to consider the stewardship of our dearest treasure, the young lives God has given into our care. Over the summer we will be looking at what has happened in this year and looking toward what we want to happen beginning in September.

What we already know is that we need to recruit God-loving, child-nurturing adults to teach this year. Some who have served faithfully this year are not able to do so next year and we need three teachers per class to insure that there are always two teachers present.

What we already know is that it’s difficult to prepare and teach a class when you never know who or how many will show up. Like most group activities, Sunday School works so much better when there is a “critical mass” of youthful energy in the room.

I have often said to parents that the most basic Christian Education takes place on Sunday mornings when the family piles into the car and backs out the driveway. By simply doing that you are communicating by your actions that worshipping and learning about God is important to you...even when the troops are in open rebellion...or whining...or sleepy. I know what I’m talking about; I’m a mother, too!

I’ve quickly grown to love this place and adore the children and young people here. It may be that by September there will be a new rector here, as eager to get to know and love you and your children as I was just a few months ago. What a gift to welcome him or her with a Sunday School bursting with life and energy and eagerness.

Thanks for wading through this. I’d love to talk to any of you about any of what I’ve written.

Happy summer and see you in Church!

Robin +



### BOOK CLUB NEWS

The book club will meet June 20 at Panera's in Exton. We are reading the Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Sendker. We are not meeting in July and August.

### MEN'S MINISTRY THANKS YOU

The men's ministry of St. James' Church conducted a survey that ended May 31. We received some great input from the six men who responded. THANK YOU! It looks like programming related to men's issues, as well as spiritual disciplines, are in demand, along with coffee hour and various other service projects. We will use this info as we plan our future activities. -- Rob Deitcher and Don Harting



**Sermons Are  
Online**

Robin's sermons are now available online. Just go to our website at [www.stjameschurch.ws](http://www.stjameschurch.ws) and click on the **BLOG** link

### STEEVES CHAPEL CHAIRS

We have ordered additional chairs for Steeves Chapel, and this means there are new opportunities to dedicate a chair (or more than one). Every chair dedicated will be marked with a plaque. Forms for the text of the plaques are available from the office, and each chair is available for a donation of \$250 (plaque included).

## *Congratulation to our members graduating from High School and College!*

### High School

**Kyle Mea**

Downingtown West

Kutztown University,

Major will be math related, but is still undecided

**Sam Wagner**

Downingtown West

West Chester University

**Nicholas Samuelson**

Coatesville High School

Penn State, University Park

Majoring in Engineering

### College

**Chloe Elizabeth Montgomery**

Cum Laude from West Chester University

Bachelor of Arts Degree in English.

**Blake Andrew Leister.**

University of Pittsburgh

Electrical Engineering.

**Leah Umile**

Indiana Univ. of Penna.

Bachelor's of Science, Hospitality Management

Position: Assistant Hospital Manager, Aramark

**Jessie Marie Cox**

Immaculata University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**Dan Bottomley**

Graduated with his PhD in

Political Science and International Relations

University of Delaware.

**John Robert Clegg,**

University of South Carolina - BA,

Summa Cum Laude, Biomedical

Engineering; recently recognized as a National

Science Foundation Research Fellow with a research

grant to continue in graduate studies / research in the

doctoral program in biomedical engineering at the

University of Texas at Austin.

**Taylor Ryan**

Elizabethtown College

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science / Mathematics

Working at

Trifecta Technologies, Associate Web Developer

## YOUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: AN UPDATE

Remember the Capital Campaign? The colorful brochures proclaiming that “We, the people, are the Church?” The plans and the visions? It’s hard to believe that the Capital Campaign ends this year.

That means it’s time for an update. Where are we?

So far, the capital campaign has been very successful. We raised the funds (almost \$50,000) to finance a major upgrade of our electrical system. While neither dramatic (nor very visible), this upgrade was essential to the success of other projects. And we have a reserve to continue with other parish-approved capital campaign projects.

But before talking about these, we have to report that we have, as so often happens, been overtaken by circumstances. The ceiling over the choir stalls gave way. In the course of repairing the damage (and reinforcing the entire ceiling throughout the church), it became clear that it would be poor stewardship not to use the opportunity created by the repair project to upgrade our worship space. The result?

New carpeting, new tile in the sanctuary, and reinforced pews. Some of this had been on the Capital Campaign wish list, but with a relatively low priority. Yet the opportunity arose and - thanks to an unexpected bequest from a long-time parishioner – the funding was available to do the work. Further upgrading came in the conversion of the former library to Steeves Chapel, expanding our worship space and making it more like the nave of the church.

Another project never even made it to the Capital Campaign wish list: air conditioning. Yet we now have air conditioning, thanks again to a specific bequest from another long-time parishioner (and thanks to our Capital Campaign investment in that electrical upgrade!).

We have completed the improvement to traffic safety around our building as well as upgrades to walks and entrances. And we have completed the new entrance to the church, with the beautiful doors—once again—made possible by a gift in memory of a long-time parishioner.

### Still to go:

- New canopy for covered entry at current handicap entrance.
- Revised ramp to meet accessibility code requirements
- Expand handicap foyer by relocating corridor to Nursery to front of building, relocate adjacent Conference Room (now Library) accordingly, provide new interior windows at Conference Room, and removing portion of wall connecting entry to existing building to provide wider opening.
- Remove partitions along corridor adjacent Parish Hall and hallway to Steeves Chapel to provide wider corridor
- Upgrade finishes in widened corridor
- Remodel existing rest rooms on Main level to be accessible with changing tables in both restrooms.
- Upgrade lighting in the hallway and rest rooms.
- New Carpeting
- Plumbing and electrical as required (No HVAC)

It is important to note that no debt of any kind was incurred in the course of these improvements, and no project was undertaken until the funds were available in the Capital Campaign account.

*Where do we stand financially? The total amount pledged for the Capital Campaign was \$291,271; the total amount received from pledges was \$262,600. An additional \$1,558 was received from non-pledging donors. The balance remaining for further work is \$88,550. If you have not completed your pledge to the campaign, now’s your chance! And if you did not make a pledge or a contribution, perhaps because you were not a member when the campaign started, you still have time! Please contact Dick McConnell (610-524-2447) or Tim Gemmell (484-716-4940) if you would like to make a pledge or a contribution.*

*~ Thank you*

*(Rector, Continued from page 1)*

there have been plenty of them these last few days, laden with the scent of earth and new-mown grass and, now and then, a whiff of honeysuckle or sweet olive. I guess I have needed a little caressing since I got here feeling so beat up. Thanks, but I really do want you to shake me up, blow some energy into me.

*That I may perfectly love you, - Not a good word for someone like me. You alone know how often I redo some stupid little task way too many times so it will be “perfect” when “good enough” would be just fine. I’d like to love you “good enough” because I have a sneaking suspicion you’d really like that, too, and that I’d find “good enough” highly enjoyable and satisfying which would probably also give you pleasure. “Perfectly” seems like more of a dare, or even a double-dare, which makes my efforts to “achieve” it more important than you getting my love which you so richly deserve.*

*And worthily magnify your holy Name; - Magnify always makes me think of making something look bigger than it actually is, which seems like kind of an oxymoron when we’re talking about you...all-powerful, all-merciful, all-knowing you. Once or twice in my life I think I’ve actually done that ”worthily magnifying” thing. I’d like to do it again sometime...please?*

*Amen*

Robin Martin+

Wernersville, June 2, 2000

## *July and August Altar Flowers are offered in loving memory of*

**July 6**

*Vivian Edmonds  
Jean and George Bitner*

**July 13**

*Carl and Claire Frank  
George and Elizabeth Schoonover*

**August 3**

*Aldo Jones  
Deacon Jo Demby  
Herb Demby, Sr.*

**August 10**

*Estelle Howell Wertz*

**August 17**

*Ann W. Edge*

**August 31**

*Sheila M. James*

*Altar Flowers can be given in memory of or in thanksgiving of a loved one.*

*Please fill in the date you would like in the Altar Guild Flower Book located on the table by the main entrance.  
Envelopes for payment are next to the book.*

## **SUNDAY MINISTRIES**

We have placed a small white board, titled "Ministers for the Service" on the wall next to the vesting sacristy door and across from the coat rack. We are using it as a form of communication to let us know when you are **NOT** available to serve on Sunday. Please take a moment on Sunday to enter your name on the dates you are **NOT** available to serve for the months of July and August.

We are also taking a look at the overall schedule for all the Sunday ministries and how many ministries overlap with in each service and from service to service. A couple of members have offered to do the scheduling for all the ministries each month instead of having 5 or 6 different volunteers making separate schedules and the office having to make adjustments.

If you find after the schedule has been published, you are unable to service for a Sunday you are scheduled, please try to find a substitute or contact Nancy Cianfrani at [cnfrn@comcast.net](mailto:cnfrn@comcast.net) or 484-341-8051 for assistance

Thank you for dedication to these ministries

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Deadline for the September issue of the Steeple Notes is due August 10th.  
Please submit articles and calendar events to the parish office via email  
[sjcparishoffice@verizon.net](mailto:sjcparishoffice@verizon.net)**

HUDSON L. VOLTZ, ESQUIRE  
JANET J. SATTERTHWAITE, ESQUIRE

JOY L. VALANIA, ESQUIRE  
HEIDI T. NOVINO, PARALEGAL

**HUDSON L. VOLTZ, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

*Small Business ~ Family Law ~ Estate Planning & Probate ~ Real Estate Law*  
**THE LAIRD PROFESSIONAL BUILDING** 610-518-9500  
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DOWNTOWN, PA 19335-1047 E-mail: [voltzlaw@comcast.net](mailto:voltzlaw@comcast.net)

Mr. Voltz is a member, serving the St. James' Community  
for Real Estate, Family, Business and Estate matters for the past 20 years

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# July and August Birthdays

## July

Colleen Ellis	July 1
William Lubwama	July 1
Susan Edmonds	July 3
Allen Weisser	July 6
Mike Wrigley	July 6
Tom Hudecheck	July 7
JoAnn Mattia	July 8
Kathy Nine-Scott	July 8
Sarah Gemmell	July 9
Jill Lewis	July 9
Kristian Uggl	July 9
Stephen Giffi	July 10
Faith Kolb	July 10
Donald Vivian	July 12
Jean Frank	July 14
Rose Ann Belluso	July 15
Kerri Ann Lewis	July 15
Claudia Butler	July 16
Barbara Monaghan	July 16
Amaya Deans	July 17
Debbie Adams	July 18
Ann Anderson	July 18
Tricia De Blander	July 18
Mike Hernandez	July 19
Cathy Schweiger	July 20
Meredith Kosits	July 22
Scott Roberts	July 22
Tripp Tyner	July 22
Cate Tyner	July 23
Ed Miller	July 25
Robert Clegg	July 26
Christa Tyner	July 26
Gayle Musselman	July 27
Terri Silvester	July 27
Rebecca Barger	July 28

Lee Edmonds	July 30
Marita Grashof	July 30
Peter Glidden	July 31
Jay Ingram	July 31
Jaclyn McCabe	July 31

## August

Lori Petrie	August 2
Rosemary Van Metre	August 2
Steve Sharamatew	August 5
Isabel Pitalue	August 6
Michael Renzulli	August 7
Jack Edmonds	August 8
Al Wertz	August 8
James Cerullo	August 9
Dewey Hodson	August 12
Jonnie Koeberle-Woodcock	August 12
Drew Mea	August 12
Nicholas Samuelson	August 13
Kate Carango	August 14
John McCann	August 14
Donna Lindley	August 15
Diane Pitalue	August 15
Oliva Holman	August 16
Sydney Schweiger	August 16
Dot Sweet	August 16
Bob Carpenter	August 18
Bob Harding	August 19
Liam Worthington-Fritz	August 19
Ruth Phillips	August 23
Sami Uggl	August 26
Sally Long	August 27
Billy Barger	August 28
Donald McCue	August 28
Pat Jones	August 30
Shirley Tompkin	August 30

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

A very special thank you to the following people that gave their time this year to teach our Sunday School students:

Preschool/Kindergarten:

Rosa Butler, Matt and Kathleen Scott

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade:

LaToya Hunter, Rachel Wallace, Gail Gilbert and Megan Heurich

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade:

Lisa Czapracki, George Fritze, Bill and Dawn Kirk

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade:

Brooke Giffi, Christine Deitcher, Rebecca Barger

Rite 13:

Judy Benne and Laura Harting

Extra special thanks to Mrs. Mike Hernandez who was faithfully available to sit in as a helper with the younger children. Also, thank you to Jenn Gemmell, Jen Harding, Liliana Cerullo and Mandy Watson for pitching in and lending a helping hand when needed.

Thank you for helping our kids grow in God's love!  
*Beth Sharamatew, Christian Education Coordinator*

See you all in September!



## ***Sunday Service Schedule for the Summer***

*7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I*

*9:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Traditional*

*Nursery Care: during the 9:30am service*

*Fellowship and Coffee Hour in Bartholomew Hall following the 9:30am service*

**Rector**

The Rev. Robin Martin, Interim Rector  
sjrector@verizon.net

**Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper**

Luann McIlvaine  
sjcparishoffice@verizon.net

**Christian Education Coordinator**

Beth Sharamatew  
sjcsundayschool2@verizon.net

**Parish Office ~ 610-269-1774**

Monday : 10am - 3pm  
Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00am – 3:00pm, Closed Friday

**Thrift Shop ~ 610-873-7812**

Monday - Thursday: 10:00am – 3:00pm  
1st & 3rd Saturdays each month: 9am - 1pm

**St. James Preschool ~ 610-269-0525**

www.stjamespreschool.com

**Vestry Members - Term 2015**

Judy Benne Home: 610-286-6141  
Rich Carango Home: 610-518-0399  
Nancy Cianfrani Home: 484-341-8051  
Brooke Giffi Home: 610-594-2712

**Vestry Members - Term 2016**

Tricia De Blander Home: 703-403-9003  
Tim Gemmell Home: 610-431-7174  
Bruce Shipley Home: 215-368-0542  
Matt Wagner Home: 610-873-2419

**Vestry Members - Term 2017**

Laura Harting Home: 610-363-5258  
Peggy Leister Home: 610-696-5271  
Dick McConnell Home: 610-524-2447  
Ron Meacham Home: 610-269-9352