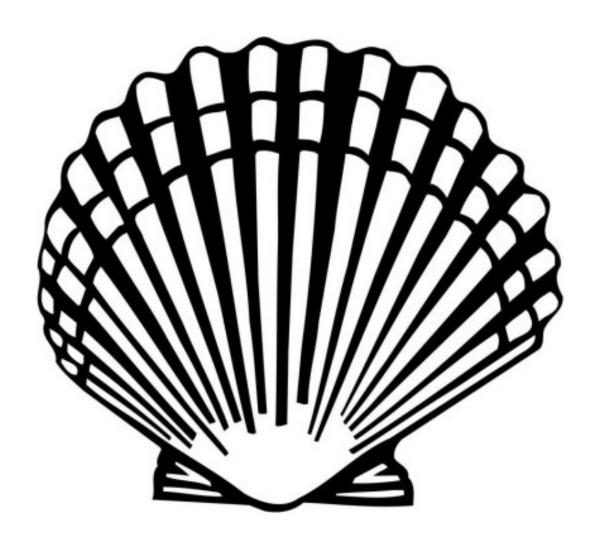
## The 2019 Annual Report of

# St. James' Episcopal Church

Mount Airy, Maryland

Presented at the Annual Meeting January 26, 2020



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## Saint James' Episcopal Church

in Mount Airy, Maryland

#### **Staff**

The Rev. Kristin N. Krantz, Rector
Laura Davis, Parish Administrator
Richard Drehoff, Jr., Music Director
Katelynn Marshall, Sunday Nursery Attendant
Mechelle Cascardo, Bookkeeper
Pat Castle, Director of St. James' Nursery School
Sharon Hansen, Business Manager of St. James' Nursery School
Sandy Baker, Manager, St. James' Thrift Shop

### **Vestry & Officers**

Jeannie Pellicier, Senior Warden Ty Conlon, Junior Warden

2017-2020

Jeannie Pellicier Chris Richard Averelle Smith Susan Straus

2018—2021

Heather Albertson Jason Kilmore Phillip Massay Lucy Winston

> 2019—2022 Ty Conlon

Bill Ellis Andrew Gobien Steve Stowell

### **Annual Meeting 2020 Agenda**

Sunday School Children Lead Opening Prayer & Song

Brunch

Welcome & Call to Order

St. James' Parish Norms

Election of Clerk to Record the Minutes

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting Reviewed for Acceptance

Presentation of the 2020 Budget & 2019 Recap for Acceptance

**Election of New Vestry Members** 

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

**Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members** 

Committee Reports by Affirmation & Appreciation

Report of the Rector: The Reverend Kristin N. Krantz

**Closing Prayer** 

Adjournment

### **Annual Meeting Minutes**

JANUARY 27, 2019

<u>Call to Order</u>: Reverend Kristin Krantz+ called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:31 am.

<u>Opening Prayer</u>: The meeting began with Sunday School children leading the congregation in reciting the Lord's Prayer and then then singing "This Little Light of Mine"

<u>Norms</u>: Were shouted out and agreed upon. Use I statements. Be Respectful. Listen carefully. Begin and end on time. Be understanding of others. No parking lot talk. Confidentiality. Open to the Holy Spirit. Have fun.

<u>Election of Clerk</u>: A motion was made by Ty Conlon, seconded by Dave Oland, to elect Susan Straus as the Clerk to record the minutes of the meeting. Ms. Straus was unanimously elected.

<u>Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting</u>: A motion was made by Dave Oland, seconded by Jim Bullington, to accept the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Recap of the 2017 Finances and Presentation of the 2018 Budget: Treasurer, Jane Barger, thanked numerous people for their support and work on the finance and business operations of the Church, Thrift Shop and the Nursery School: Mechelle Cascardo, Bookkeeper; Aline Sautter, Receiving Treasurer; and Deb Schaeffer, Registrar. Jane also thanked the three Audit Teams: Church – Cheryl Windsor and Deb Schaeffer; Nursery School – Mara Snyder and Natalie DelRegno; and Thrift Shop – Bill Ellis and Bill Phillips. The Audit Teams completed a comprehensive review and audit of financial and administrative operations. The Nursery School and Thrift Shop Audits did not reveal any issues. The Church audit revealed a minor record keeping/administrative irregularity; which was immediately corrected. All three entities: Church, Nursery School and the Thrift Shop are financially sound. Jane also thanked Vic Pellicier for preparing the monthly audit of bank operations.

Jane reviewed the highlights of the 2019 Budget and compared it to 2018. At year-end, the Church received \$212,481.00 in Congregational Stewardship Pledges, which is \$7,481.99 more than the \$205,000 Pledge income projected in the 2018 budget. The 2019 Adjusted Total Income/Deficit Budget Amount (-\$49,854.49) is similar to the 2018 Adjusted Total Income/Deficit Budget Amount (-\$44,690.12). It is not great that we are operating in the red; however, the Church is stable, it is not declining. The Thrift Shop provided \$35,137.77 in income to the Church, which was 25% of monthly Shop's gross sales. Jane thanked the Shop Manager, Sandy Baker, the employees, volunteers and Board Members for their hard work to support and fulfill the mission of the Thrift Shop. The Thrift Shop personnel expense still continues to be a concern. The minimum wage increase to \$10/hour took effect in July, 2018; which impacted the Thrift Shop's financial bottom line. The Thrift Shop would benefit from more volunteers. Thrift Shop sales declined in 2018 by approximately \$2,000 as compared to 2017. The Nursery School provided \$36,300 in annual Stewardship and \$27,795.50 towards the building's yearly operations expenses. Additionally, the Nursery School made a \$15,000 contribution to St James, which was deposited in the St James' Money Market Reserve Account. Jane recognized the hard work of the Executive Director, Pat Castle, and the Business Manager, Sharon Hansen, along with the teachers, teachers' aides, parent volunteers and Board members. In combination, the Thrift Shop and Nursery School provided 32.3% of St James' Church total income in 2018. For the Church, the year ended better than the projected budget anticipated. The actual 2018 year ended in a \$19,856.16 deficit, compared to the \$49,854.49 that was budgeted.

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In March, 2018 the Replenish and Establish Project (R&E) was launched, asking parishioners to financially support a 3-year pledge program to replenish funds in the Operating Reserve Money Market account and to establish a Capital Improvement Reserve Money Market account to begin saving for future capital expenses as our building ages. At year end (December 31, 2018), the Operating Reserve Money Market account balance was \$49,412.50. At the year end, the Capital Improvement Reserve Money Market account balance was \$44,145.28. The \$44,145.28 represents money and interest collected through the R&E pledges. There have been no withdrawals. This Capital Improvement Reserve account is "restricted" to be used only to fund capital repairs and improvements on the church building over \$5,000. On December 31, 2018, the total amount of R&E pledges received is \$85,706.00. Pledges of \$41,614.01 were deposited in the Operating Reserve Money Market and \$44,091.99 were deposited into the Capital Improvement Money Market account in 2018.

The Vestry's 2019 Proposed Budget predicts a Total Income of \$366,812, which is \$14,348 less than 2018 Actual Income. The Vestry's 2019 Proposed Budget predicts a Total Expense of \$351,666.49, which is \$13,138.96 more than 2018 Actual Expenses. After deducting 2019 Principal Payments, the 2019 Budget's Adjusted Total Deficit is -\$49,854.49. The Vestry voted to provide a 3% pay raise for all staff, including the Thrift Shop Manager. Accordingly, the 2019 budget includes funding to support the pay increase, which took effect on January 1. The 2018 budget did not provide pay increases for staff. Based on past years' income and expense history, it is anticipated that the overall church deficit will be less than the \$49,854.49 budgeted amount, through careful control of operating expenses and conservative estimate of proposed (budgeted) income.

A motion was made by Lynda Ellis, seconded by Ty Conlon, to accept the Vestry's 2019 Proposed Budget, as presented by Jane Barger. The 2019 Budget was unanimously accepted.

<u>Election of New Vestry Members</u>: The Reverend Kristin Krantz+ presented the slate of vestry candidates for the 2019 to 2022 class –Ty Conlon, Bill Ellis, Steve Stowell, and Andrew Gobien. A motion was made by Cory Del Regno, seconded by Tom Kaufman, to elect these candidates for vestry service in the class of 2019 – 2022. The candidates were unanimously elected.

<u>Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate and Alternate</u>: The Reverend Kristin Krantz+ presented Carla Kaufman as the St James' delegate to the convention, and Blix Winston as the alternate. A motion was made by Dave Oland, and seconded by Cheri McClanahan, to elect Carla Kaufman as our delegate to the Diocesan Convention with Blix Winston as our alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Outgoing Vestry Recognition Outgoing Vestry members</u>: Cory Del Regno, Janet McKeever, Cheryl Windsor, and Cheri McClanahan were recognized for their vestry service. The Reverend Kristin Krantz+thanked them for their leadership and commitment to St James' and gave them a gift from the parish.

<u>Committee Reports</u>: The Reverend Kristin Krantz+ indicated that all committee reports are included in the Annual Meeting Report distributed to all present, and via email last week. She thanked all members of our ministries. The reports were lifted up for affirmation and appreciation by all present.

Report of the Rector: The Reverend Kristin Krantz+ reviewed two significant planning activities that occurred in 2018: The Replenish and Establish Project (R&E) and attending the Congregational Development workshop in Seattle, Washington. The Vestry focused on the R&E Project in 2018, which was launched in March. The Vestry's goal was to raise \$185,000 in pledges to replenish our operating reserves and to establish a long term capital reserve fund. The actual pledged amount is \$182,365 from 57 individuals and families. The Church is in a stronger place financially than it was in 2017; the R&E work of 2018 was successful. She thanked everyone who was able to make a gift or pledge and invited those who weren't able to last year to consider doing so this year

Kristin+ also reviewed the work she did last year in Congregational Development (CD), and mentioned that she is part of the CD Cohort of clergy and lay people here in the Diocese of Maryland. A big part of this work was attending The College for Congregational Development in Seattle last year with parishioner and Vestry member Heather Albertson. Kristin+ reviewed what they learned: organizational models and change processed; facilitation skills; organizational culture and influences; giving and receiving feedback; power and organization politics; marketing of organizations, appreciative inquiry; leadership and systems; decision-making models; organization structure, and organization development interventions – and spoke of the ways she has already been using the material with staff and parish leadership.

Krantz+ went on to review old and new metrics for measuring a church's success and health. Traditionally, a church measured ASA – Average Sunday Attendance. However, this is not an accurate metric as across the country regular attendance is changing, with families that used to attend 3 – 4 times per month, now attending 1 -2 times per month. A new metric has emerged called AWI – Average Weekly Impact. St James' has a high AWI by its presence in the community through our Nursery School and Thrift Shop, our Outreach to Mt Airy Net, Pleasant View Nursing Home, Carroll County Social Services, A is for Africa, and Episcopal Relief and Development to name a few.

Kristin+ continued by reviewing the Life Cycle of Organizations model that she and Heather taught to the Vestry last November to be used as a diagnostic tool. Kristin+ distributed two handouts: What is Congregational Development? and Model 5: Life Cycle of Organizations. She then taught the Life Cycle model to those gathered.

Kristin+ shared the Vestry's discussion about the Life Cycle Model; the Vestry reached consensus in its view that St James' is at the Stability Phase, trending towards Stagnant and Stale. That means we are not 100% healthy. However, we know what to work and focus on. At the February retreat, the Vestry will identify and re-focus on foundational questions: who are we, what is our purpose, who are our neighbors, what are we called to do?

Kristin+ asked for questions from the parishioners. One parishioner commented that the Life Cycle Model was clear and understandable. Another parishioner asked what can the parishioners do and how can a parishioner make a suggestion? Kristin+ responded that we all should think and pray. Parishioners should be thoughtful about their work at St James' and the contribution to the Church; and should talk to Kristin+ or a Vestry member if they have ideas or issues.

Kristin+ reviewed what is next for 2019: CD will continue to be a focus for Kristin+ and the Vestry. Also, expanding strategic planning and review of processes and procedures, looking at structures of the Church, Thrift Shop and the Nursery School. Outlook Teams for the Nursery School and Thrift Shop will work on looking at past trends and consider possible changes for the future, and then make recommendations to the Vestry.

Kristin+ presented two parishioners who have gone above and beyond in their service to our community with a print of the St James' icon: Deb Schaeffer and Cheryl Windsor. Both appreciated receiving the gift.

Kristin+ led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Meeting was unanimously moved for adjournment at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Straus, Clerk

## 2019 Financial Report & 2020 Budget

St. James' January 26, 2020				
	2018 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET
Income				
Congregational Pledges	\$212,481.00	\$210,000.00	\$215,286.00	\$195,000.00
Plate Offering	\$26,938.75	\$15,000.00	\$21,710.00	\$20,000.00
Other Income	\$13,032.72	\$18,092.00	\$31,127.86	\$30,354.00
Memorial Gifts	\$5,370.00		\$1,460.00	\$0.00
St. James Nursery School	\$85,730.33	\$83,420.00	\$82,736.27	\$83,530.00
St. James Thrift Shop	\$37,607.20	\$40,300.00	\$39,340.89	\$38,924.00
Total Income	\$381,160.00	\$366,812.00	\$391,661.02	\$367,808.00
Expense				
Ministry	\$23,585.95	\$29,010.44	\$25,785.33	\$30,832.00
Operations	\$167,980.55	\$165,571.00	\$166,213.42	\$159,899.00
Parish Administration	\$141,449.71	\$151,421.05	\$146,972.99	\$156,771.57
Worship & Christian Ed	\$5,511.32	\$5,664.00	\$5,564.75	\$5,328.00
Total Expense	\$338,527.53	\$351,666.49	\$344,536.49	\$352,830.57
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$42,632.47		\$47,124.53	
Investment Interest	\$159.98		\$692.83	
TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT	\$42,792.45	\$15,145.51	\$47,817.36	\$14,977.43
Principal Payment on Loans	-\$62,648.61	-\$65,000.00	-\$64,756.91	-\$68,000.00
TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT - Adjusted	-\$19,856.16	-\$49,854.49	-\$16,939.55	-\$53,022.57
Mortgage Debt-12-31-2018	\$1,687,137.04			
Principal Payment 2019	-\$64,756.91			
Mortgage Debt - 12-31-2019	\$1,622,380.13			
	- 1			
12-31-2019 Balance Reserve	MM \$49,717.18			
12-31-2019 Balance Cap Imp	MM \$71,197.43			
12-31-2019 R&E Funds Rec'd	\$139,360.00			

### **2019 Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee oversees the financial operations of St. James' and provides financial assistance and guidance to the Rector and the Vestry. In 2019, the Treasurer worked closely with Bookkeeper, Mechelle Cascardo, as well as Receiving Treasurer, Aline Sautter, Registrar, Deb Schaeffer and Nursery Business Manager, Sharon Hansen. We thank them all for their excellent work and support throughout the year. Financial oversight was provided for all church businesses, the 2020 Budget for St. James' Church and the Thrift Shop were prepared and regular monthly audits of all financial operations and payroll were completed throughout the year. The Nursery Business Manager oversees the financial operations of the Nursery School, preparing budgets, financial reports and payroll. In addition, we thank Deb Schaeffer who has completed the monthly audits of all bank operations.

#### In 2019:

- At year-end, St. James' received \$215,286.00 in Congregation Stewardship Pledges which is \$5,286.00 more than the \$210,000 Pledge budget goal for the 2019 year. As of December 31, 2019, Net Income of \$47,124.53 was adjusted to allow for the addition of Investment Interest of \$692.83 and payment of Loan Principal of \$64,756.91 resulting in a deficit Net Income of \$16,939.55 for the year.
- Giving 25% of monthly gross sales as Stewardship to our parish, the Thrift Shop provided income of \$39,340.89. Thanks to Manager, Sandy Baker, and to the employees, volunteers and Thrift Shop Board Members whose hard work and time both support and fulfill the mission of the shop.
- St. James' Nursery School provided \$36,300.00 in annual Stewardship and \$24,374.12 in payment of half of our building's yearly operations expense. In addition, \$15,000 was contributed to the St. James' Money Market Reserve Account. The Nursery's continued success is due to the hard work and dedication of Pat Castle, Executive Director, Sharon Hansen, Business Manager, the teachers and teachers' aides, Nursery Board Members and parent volunteers.
- The Nursery and Thrift Shop together, when including reimbursement for their portion of Property/Liability Insurance, Workers Comp insurance and Paychex payroll fees, provided <u>31.2%</u> of St. James' Total Income in 2019.
- The Replenish & Establish Project (R&E), started in March 2018, is a 3-year pledge program to financially support a program to replenish funds in the Operating Reserve Money Market account and to establish a Capital Improvement Reserve Money Market account to begin saving for future capital expenses as our building ages.
- On December 31, 2019, the Operating Reserve Money Market balance was \$49,717.18. During the year, \$21,355.00 in R&E funds, \$15,000.00 from the Nursery School and \$3,710.00 in miscellaneous funds were transferred to the operating reserve account. \$39,140.00 was transferred from operating reserves to the church operating account to cover expenses and reimbursements.
- On December 31, 2019, the Capital Improvement Reserve Money Market balance was \$71,197.43.
   During the year, \$32,569.00 in R&E funds were transferred to the capital improvement account and (1) withdrawal for \$5,880.00 was made to pay for the concrete repair at the kitchen entrance. This reserve account is restricted to be used only to fund necessary capital repairs and improvements of over \$5,000.
- On December 31, 2019, the total amount of R&E pledges is \$183,365.00 and the total funds received to date is \$139,630.00.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Barger, Treasurer

### 2020—2023 Vestry Class Candidates

#### Matt Kastel

Originally from New York, Matthew has worked in professional baseball most of his adult life, including being a Director for the Houston Astros (where he met his wife, Karen) and several years in minor league baseball for several different teams throughout the country. For the last 11 years he has been the Stadium Manager at Oriole Park, home of the Baltimore Orioles, for the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Matt received his undergraduate degree from Marist College and his MBA from Hood College. In addition to running a stadium, Matt is also an adjunct professor at Mount St. Mary's University. Additionally, he sits on the Advisory Board at the Bolte Business School at MSMU. Currently he is the President of the Board of Directors of the Stadium Managers Association.

He resides in Monrovia with his wife of 27 years, Karen, and their two boys, Luke and Grant and his beloved Hershey, a black lab mix.

Spiritually he was baptized into the Episcopal Church as a child and is humbled by the divinity of Christ and the power of the Sermon on the Mount.

#### Dave Rak

Dave joined St. James' in 2012 the week after Easter Sunday. It was a leap, he changed denominations and now feels blessed to be part of the Saint James' community.

Before that he got a degree in geophysical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, served in the US Army Corps of Engineers, then as a geophysicist, then as a software engineer and consultant. He has lived in Ohio, Colorado, Virginia, and Maryland.

Dave served with the committee searching for a new rector after Portia Hirschman retired. He also helped on the St. James' Nursery Board for several years and participated in the anti-racism workshop. If you know him somewhat well, you'd be amazed that he's only forgotten it was his turn to bring snacks for coffee hour once. He also worked with the Parish Lay Committee on Tommy Turbyville's discernment process.

Dave and Kathy have two children - one living near Pittsburgh and the other near Boston.

His favorite liturgy of the year (by far) is the Easter vigil service. He enjoys ice cream, walking, hiking, reading, and traveling. Favorite travel spots are the Great Lakes and our national parks.

#### **Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate**

Delegate—Carla Kaufman Alternate—Blix Winston

### Report of the Rector—The Reverend Kristin N. Krantz

2019 was a year of blessings and growth at St. James' as we welcomed many new members, became the Charter Organization for a new Scouts BSA Troop, and served our wider community.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting I taught the College for Congregational Development model on the Life Cycle of Organizations. This continued work the Vestry began in the fall of 2018, and allowed us to share our assessment that we are in a place of stability leaning towards stale/stagnant. That then became an ongoing part of our work in 2019, as we began to delve into our core identity here at St. James' (Who are we at a faith level? What are we here for? Who is our neighbor and how are we related to our neighbor?). This is work that will continue in 2020.

In February the Vestry spent a day and a half on retreat together at the Claggett Center. We spent some time doing team building activities and bringing new members on board, we prayed and worshipped together, and we held our regular monthly meeting. Vestry member and College for Congregational Development attendee Heather Albertson and I also led the Vestry in an exercise on the core identity of congregations as told through stories.

Also in February we continued our quarterly *Time-Out Together* family events with a family movie night. Kite flying in the spring was again cancelled because of rain, and the summer picnic fell during a week when many folks were away. As we prepared for the fall we decided to change up our events for the coming program year. Our first gathering was Christmas caroling in December which was lots of fun - we plan on doing it again in 2020, as well as adding other new events.

We kicked off Lent with a festive Shrove Tuesday pancake supper where the children hid the alleluia banner and we burned last year's palms to make ashes. We had two Ash Wednesday services, one for children and a traditional service. We also continued our practice of making and distributing fired clay prayer touchstones, something folks have begun to look forward to every year. Bishop Eugene Sutton came for an Episcopal Visitation on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Highlights of Holy Week included the annual Palm Sunday "Passport to Jerusalem" in Sunday School, the Holy Week with children service on Good Friday, and the Tri-Church Easter Vigil with folks from Grace, New Market and St. Paul's, Poplar Springs.

In May I shared with the congregation, and it was announced at Diocesan Convention, that I accepted a call to be the Director of the College for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Maryland. This is a part time position that I will hold concurrent with remaining the Rector of St. James', with the Diocese essentially paying St. James' for a small portion of my time. The College will be launching in Maryland in June 2020, and I will be working with College staff from the Diocese of Olympia, and leaders here in Maryland, to get it up and running. I am excited about this work and what it will mean for our Diocese and the wider church, as well as our congregation. In addition to this work, I continued other Diocesan work including serving on the Congregational Vitality Cohort and the Diocesan Worship Team.

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Also in May, on Memorial Day weekend, we made the summer shift to one service at 9:30 am, the continuation of 2018's successful experiment. The annual Memorial Day cookout was also a success despite rain and lightning at one point – the kids had fun with water rockets and making s'mores. In June we added the Sunday School Closing Ceremony as a part of a Sunday worship service, finding that it worked well and is something we plan to do again. The summer worship schedule continued through Labor Day weekend, after which we returned to two services every Sunday.

Also in June Heather Albertson and I graduated from the College for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Olympia after attending our second year weeklong intensive, completing two congregational projects, reading multiple college level books, and passing an exam.

Due to both low enrollment and our longtime director needing to pull back from leadership, we cancelled M.A.D. Camp (Music, Art, Drama Camp) this year. Because it was too late to organize another type of summer camp we began conversation about creating a Vacation Bible School experience in summer 2020. A parish survey showed that people are interested in a weeklong day camp and so that is what we will look to plan for next summer.

Over the summer we tried something new and had two different prayer hikes. Parishioners and friends hiked Sugarloaf Mountain and along the C&O Canal tow path, taking time along the way to stop for prayer and reflection. It was a great way to enjoy God's creation and one another and we plan to do this again in 2020.

In September on Fall Kick-Off Sunday, we not only returned to two worship services, we also had a Ministry Fair along with blessing backpacks. It was a great way to see how much our community does and allowed for new members to find ways to get connected and involved.

From September through January 2020 we welcomed Tommy Turbyville as a DOV Intern. DOV (Discerning Ordained Vocation) is the second year of the discernment process in the Diocese of Maryland for those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry as either a deacon or a priest. Part of that process is leaving your home parish to serve in a different community. While with us Tommy preached monthly, attended ministry meetings, supported outreach, assisted my with pastoral care, and led a formation series on the Daily Office that included leading weekly Compline services in Advent. His time with us was a gift, and special thanks are offered to his PLC (Parish Lay Committee) who met regularly with him for prayer and reflection: Jeannie Pellicier, Nancy Nanavaty, Cheryl Windsor, Dave Rak, and Peter Sabonis.

In November we continued exploring our core identity as a congregation with a workshop for Vestry members, members of both the Thrift Shop and Nursery School Boards, and all Ministry Chairs. Heather Albertson and I taught another core model from the College for Congregational Development and then used it to collect data. This data will be folded into the ongoing work of the Vestry.

In liturgy & worship news, in February we once again held a service of Healing & Hope for those who have experienced reproductive loss. I believe it is important to have this service annually to create a space for those who need it. During Lent we experimented with the liturgy by arranging the chairs into a circular configuration with an altar in the middle, and used an entirely chanted Eucharistic Prayer. As with most things related to worship, some folks liked the changes and some folks were not fans, but overall feedback indicated that trying something different for a liturgical season is something folks are open to now and then. This year we again expanded our practice of special blessings on Sundays throughout the year. In the last year we offered special recognition and prayer for Boy & Girl Scouts, health care professionals, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, graduates, parents, Sunday School teachers,

school teachers and students, and a broad "blessing our work" to recognize and lift up the various types of labor we all do. In October the Feast of St. Francis was celebrated by everyone bringing their pets to worship. It was a joyful celebration and is fast becoming one of many people's favorite Sundays!

Adult formation opportunities in 2019 included several different kinds of gatherings. We continued a quarterly Book Group meeting to discuss the following titles: *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Power of Love* by The Most Rev. Michael Curry, *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, and *Braving the Wilderness* by Brené Brown. During the season after the Epiphany we did a weekly Good Book Club Bible study on Paul's Letter to the Romans. In Lent we had a four part series called *Holy Living & Holy Dying* to help people plan well for the end of life. In June we hosted a screening of the documentary *From Paris to Pittsburgh* followed by conversation about the climate crisis. In August we gathered to watch Brené Brown's Netflix documentary *The Call to Courage*. In the fall the Rev. Dina van Klavern and I hosted a Lunchtime Zoom Bible Study, using Zoom video conferencing, for four weeks. It was very well received and we anticipate doing it again at some point. In Advent I led a session on the *O Antiphons – An Explorations of the Names of Jesus*. Formation with our Nursery School students in the form of monthly Chapel Time continued to be a personal highlight – I met monthly with every class to pray, share stories, and sing together.

You can read all the other reports from our various ministries to get a fuller picture of our life together over the last year at St. James', so I would like to close by thanking all of our Vestry members, The Nursery School Board and Thrift Shop Board, and our staff: Laura Davis, Parish Administrator, Richard Drehoff, Music Director, Katelynn Marshall, Nursery Care Attendant, Sandy Baker, Thrift Shop Manager, Pat Castle, Nursery School Director, and Sharon Hansen, Nursery School Business Manager. These wonderful people continue to be amazing teams to work with. Onward to 2020 and the opportunities it holds for our community!

Respectfully submitted, *Kristin+* 

### Report of the Senior Warden

It's been my privilege to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. Thank you for your patience as I learned the ropes of this role! I have learned so much about St. James' and the Diocese as a whole. While it can be challenging to learn a new role, I am so grateful for a wonderful Vestry, excellent ministry chairs and Rev. Kristin+ to help guide me.

One of the first items of business for Vestry this year was supporting Kristin<sup>†</sup> in her decision to become the Director of The College of Congregational Development (CCD) in Maryland. We met with Canon Scott+ Slater in March to discuss this in further detail and then again with Bishop <sup>†</sup>Eugene Sutton during his visit in April.

During the summer months, Vestry discussed the possibility of chartering a new Boy Scout Troop, (which has come into fruition in the form of Troop 829). We also spent time reviewing the new parking lot plan proposed by the Nursery School Board.

In September, the Vestry had some important discussions regarding the Thrift Shop and its new lease. The outcome of those discussions was to reduce the floor space of the shop by giving up 230 S. Main St. and revamping the remaining space. We also welcomed Tommy Turbyville, our DOV (Discerning Ordained Vocation) Intern during this month.

Our discussions during the last month of the year revolved around the budget and ways in which we can stretch our dollars.

On a personal note, I really enjoyed helping organize the Pancake Dinner and watching the children's pancake races. Eating ice cream sandwiches after a hot and humid hike up Sugarloaf Mountain with fellow parishioners was a real treat too! Finally, leading the Stewardship Campaign was very rewarding in that it led me to realize and appreciate all that St. James' has given me and my family.

It is a blessing to serve you and this community!

Jeannie Pellicier Senior Warden

#### Report of the Junior Warden

Having completed my second year as the Junior Warden for St James' I would like to take a moment to thank several people for their assistance. The help and advice of Jim Bullington, Jason Killmore and Jane Barger has been incredible and made my role as Junior Warden a lot easier.

Some of the major projects handled during this past year include finishing repairs to the elevators, significant HVAC repairs and maintenance, the beginning of an LED bulb conversion in the Nursery School, soffit and siding repairs on the south exposure, roof repairs over the kitchen, replacement of the electric stove after a fire, plumbing repairs throughout the building and maintenance of the storm water management pond. In the coming year we need to arrange for repairs to the roof over the sanctuary, complete maintenance items identified during a fire inspection, begin implementing a church safety plan and working through the always present St James' Fix-It List.

This year we again had both a Spring and Fall Clean-Up Day which were very productive. In the weekend following the small kitchen fire in December, members of St James' rallied to conduct a major cleaning of the kitchen. Thanks to Senior Warden Jeannie Pellicier for coordinating that effort and the many folks that participated. In the coming year we will continue the practice of having two formal Clean-Up Days and as special projects come up we will also have Pop-Up Maintenance Events.

The Buildings and Grounds Team continues to be a great addition to the resources of St James'. I would like to encourage anyone interested to participate in helping keep our wonderful home maintained. As we move into 2020 we are looking for ways to better communicate the projects on the St James' Fix-It List which can be handled by our church family. We have also begun coordinating with our new Boy Scout Troop to find maintenance projects that can be used as learning experiences and service projects for the young men of Troop 829.

Ty Conlon, Junior Warden

### St. James' Nursery School Board Report

Mission: To provide an educational environment which nurtures each child's spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social development.

#### Annual Highlights:

- Board Members Patricia Castle, Director; Sharon Hansen, Business Manager; Sarah Brown, Chair; The Rev. Kristin Krantz; Vestry Liason: Heather Albertson; Yvette Allen, Mary HutchinsDanna, Ashley Conlon, Rebecca Sach, Karen Kastel and, Members; Alexis Paul, Parent Representative; Sam Gass; Staff Representative.
- We have a staff of fourteen, including a director, business manager, six teachers and six assistant teachers.
- We continue to be published with the Maryland EXCELS rating system online with the highest possible rating of five checkmarks. Additionally, we have achievements as an Asthma Friendly School, Eco-Healthy Child Care, Health and Wellness, Accredited Program, and a Cultural Competent Program. ttp://marylandexcels.org//olms2/231925
- The school maintains national accreditation with the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We had our reaccreditation visit this last fall and received our next five-year accreditation approval shortly thereafter.
- The current enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is 134 students and we offer 10 classes for two, three and four-year olds.
- In February of 2019, we received \$8,580 from the Maryland Textbook Grant which was used to purchase books, written materials, writing journals, online subscriptions for Starfall and the Ages and Stages Developmental screening for school and parent access, ABC journals, Weekly Readers, three laptops and one Newline Interactive Panel for the 2019-20 school year, etc.

- Week of the Young Child in April 2019 We had a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) night at the school for the families of our Preschool 3's and Pre-K 4's.
- Our summer program in the summer of 2019 ran for three weeks with a staff of three. The class was full for each week and we profited \$3,239.36.
- The Fall Charleston Wrap fund raiser brought in approximately \$4,407.70 in sales and donations. This money is being used to pay for monthly music and movement sessions, three sessions with Soccer Shots in the spring, and other program enhancements. The Scholastic Book Fair will take place March.

Respectfully submitted: Patricia Castle, Executive Director

#### St. James' Thrift Shop Board Report

Our mission is to focus upon ministering to the community as Jesus Christ ministered to the multitude, helping return individuals and families to a state of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being as a Christian community outreach program.

Our staff includes our manager, Sandy Baker, 4 part-time staff, and 20 volunteers. The volunteers are from the surrounding community, specialty groups such as the CHANGE program and CSAAC, students performing service hours, etc. The St. James' Thrift Shop board members are: Chris Henyon; Peg Pelch; Tom Kaufman; Cheryl Windsor; Andrew Gobien, Vestry Liaison; and Sandy Baker, Manager. The Reverend Kristin Krantz also attends and Jane Barger, our Treasurer and Financial Advisor.

Thanks to our generous donors, our staff and volunteers continually processing those treasures to keep our shelves full for the many customers, new and returning, coming through our doors. Ebay sales help us reach those online customers and bring in additional income.

Those items we cannot sell in our store or on Ebay, we donate to various community partners and outreach missions, such as: A is for Africa, Chesapeake Wetlands, Tails of Hope, Mt. Airy Net, Frederick Rescue Mission, Red Cross, Mt. Airy Senior Center, St. James' Church and Nursery School, local schools, and our Main Street businesses to name a few.

We continue to be an active member of MAMSA (the Mt Airy Main Street Association). Our manager attends meetings with the Mt Airy businesses to keep up to date on current town issues and support each other. We have participated in special celebrations promoting our town, such as the Chili Cook-off, Easter Egg Hunt, Beers and Brats, and Oktoberfest.

Special events at the shop this year have included Wacky Wednesday, Thrifty Thursday, Family and Friends Savings Event, Customer Appreciation Day, Pop-up Sales, Bag Sales, and the Children's Secret Santa Shop to name a few.

In the process of renewing our lease, which ended in December, we were able to reduce our footprint and restructure our retail space. This has allowed us to streamline the Shop and do a good clean out! Thank you to all the parishioners who helped as various stages of this process, and to Boy Scout Troop 829 for their assistance.

The Thrift Shop board, staff and volunteers are thankful for our generous community and look forward to 2020 and many years ahead.

Submitted by Deb Schaeffer

### **Acolyte Report**

The Acolyte Group consisted of 10 dedicated Youths willing to serve on a rotational basis in 2019. However, due to many of our Acolytes taking on more responsibilities with school and work as well as graduating and starting college, we have lost six of our group. With only four Acolytes at this time, we need to increase our numbers. Many hands make light work! We welcome any youth (or young at heart) in our church community grade 3 and up who would like to learn and serve as an Acolyte. We will soon have a day to work with the Acolytes so this is the perfect time to join us! There is always a need of three Acolytes for the 10:30 a.m. service each Sunday consisting of one Crucifer and two Torches. Please see Heather Albertson or contact her at eyes2cu@msn.com if interested.

Our hope is to replace the old robes with properly fitting ones as soon as possible after we have a full crew, so our Acolytes can be comfortable. With the hope of new Youth joining, we have hesitated until we know the range at least.

I would like to thank all the Youths that have served our Church so faithfully each Sunday! Our service runs smoothly with their assistance each week and it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank the parents of our Youth Acolytes for supporting them and St. James' so they are able to serve. Many hands make light work!

Our Acolytes for 2019 and into 2020 (and hopefully more to come J) are: Connor Nanavaty, Kyle DelRegno, Zachary Krantz, Caroline Pellicier, and Jasper Krantz.

Warmly Submitted by: Heather Albertson

#### **Altar Guild Report**

The Altar Guild teams still serve every five weeks, two to a team. We have a new member on Altar Guild, her name is Gabby Markham and we welcome her with thanks. If anyone would like to serve on the Altar Guild we would greatly appreciate any help given. Please keep the Altar Guild in your prayers for 2020, as we continue to serve St. James' and our God. Thanks to all.

The ladies that sew on Sundays are making some red altar hangings for us and Lord willing we will be able to display them on the first Sunday we use RED. We are looking forward to using them and hope top honor the ladies at that service who have worked so hard. We do not use red very often, but it will be great to have a set for when we do.

If you would enjoy doing something for St. James' that does not require a lot of time, our Altar Guild member, Jeannie Pellicier still heads the bread making for communion and would like very much to add new members to make bread.

God go with everyone at St. James' in 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Aline Sautter

#### **Boy Scout Troop 829**

Troop 829 had an incredible beginning in 2019. We chartered on August 29th with 6 youth and at the end of the year we have 10 scouts with 10 leaders. We had campouts each month through December. The scouts learned new skills and they even cooked meals before some meetings, setting up the troop camp kitchen on the field outside of the church. The boys in the troop clearly have cooking skills.

In October, the troop hosted a district wide weekend campout event, Webelos Woods, that prepares older cub scouts to transition to ScoutsBSA. In November, the troop had its very first Court of Honor to celebrate achievements and awards the boys earned. St. James', church leadership and Mayor Patrick Rockinberg attended. Five of the scouts advanced in rank in the 4 months since we chartered and there were a lot of awards given from summer camp.

In service, we assisted the church with setup and movement of the basket raffle fund raiser and assisted with Quartermania. A couple of the scouts also helped demolish the Thrift Shop dressing room in its preparation to reduce its size.

We have a lot more activities and camp outs scheduled for 2020. We meet on Fridays (when not out camping) from 7-8:30pm. If you have or are a youth aged 10½ to 17 interested in joining us for fun, fellowship and service and love the smell of a good campfire, please contact the troop's scoutmaster, Bill Cunnane @ billcunnane@hotmail.com.

Submitted by: Bill Cunnane

#### **Chalice Server Report**

The chalice servers assist our Rector at the altar during communion by offering the cup (the blood of Christ). This is a very honorable ministry made available to the laity by our Episcopal Church. This ministry provides an opportunity to serve our church in a rewarding and humbling manner.

We currently have 12 chalice servers who assist at communion on a rotating monthly basis. At the 8:30 service, the server assists the rector with setting the table, administering the chalice and reading the lessons, psalm and prayers of the people. Two servers administer the cup at the 10:30 service.

Our servers are: Jane Barger, Jim Bullington, Cory DelRegno, Lynda Ellis, Carolyn Etzler, Caroline Pellicier, Jeannie Pellicier, Aline Sautter, Deb Schaeffer, Steve Stowell, Maureen Suckling, and Blix Winston.

If you are interested in joining our chalice ministry or have questions, please contact Deb Schaeffer at <a href="mailto:

Submitted by: Deb Schaeffer

#### **Choir Report**

After a successful Christmas and Advent season, the choir is excited to continue into Epiphany! We're always looking for new members to join us. Recordings are provided to help those of us who don't read music so there's **no experience required!** We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:15p.

We're always working to include a wide variety of anthems from different sources, service music across languages, and favorite hymns reimagined. We work hard to match the anthems with the Gospel each Sunday, and I hope that pairing comes through!

In the coming season, I hope to be able to incorporate more of the many musical talents throughout our congregation into our services—if you sing or play an instrument and would be interested in participating in a service, let me know!

As always, if you have any suggestions about music you'd like to sing or hear, let me know after one of the services, or send me an e-mail (<a href="music@stjamesmtairy.org">music@stjamesmtairy.org</a>) and we'll see how we can incorporate it liturgically.

Thank you all for your support of the music program at St. James', and looking forward to making more music together each week!

Warmest, Richard Drehoff, Music Director

#### **Child Care (Crib Nursery) Report**

Child care (crib nursery) was consistent in 2019 compared to previous years. We averaged five children per Sunday (six during 2018). We had a high of fifteen children on one Sunday in September (up from a high of fourteen in 2018).

Currently, there are seven adults that alternate helping our Nursery Attendant during the two services. We are interested in having more volunteers to help with our youngest parishioners so there are always two adults with the children. Please see Sarah Brown if you are interested in this ministry.

Submitted by Sarah Brown

### **Daughters of the King**

Members undertake a Rule of Life incorporating prayer and service reaffirming their Baptism and Confirmation promises

The St. James' Chapter of the Daughters of the King meets monthly on the first Tuesday at the church. Since we are a small group, we concentrate faithfully on prayers for our parish family and beyond. Each member is actively involved in ministries within St. James: Altar Guild, lector, coffee hostesses, Nursery Board, Thrift Shop Board and volunteers, Sunday School.

We welcome prayer requests at any time

Karen Dulany, Joan Fader Margaret Neff, Peg Pelch

Submitted by Joan Fader

#### **Flower Guild Report**

The Flower Guild provides plant and floral arrangements each week for the altar. We follow the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and work closely with the Altar Guild.

Dedications were down for 2019. Altar arrangements appear weekly regardless of parishioner dedications, however with a steady calendar, the Flower Guild can build a better cushion to make purchases when cutting flowers are sparse and flower shipment costs are high. Feedback from our work has encouraged us to do flanking altar arrangements as often as possible.

Easter and Christmas dedications remain an important source of income to fund this ministry. Lent and Advent do not have fresh arrangements. If your special date falls during these holy days, please consider selecting another date and your message will be published accordingly.

Forever growing with God,
-The Flower Guild

#### **Fundraising Report**

In 2019, we held three successful fundraisers once again to benefit our church and community.

Family Fun Quartermania events were held in June and December garnering a total of \$2,612.25 to help with our ongoing church expenses.

For our Annual Basket Raffle and Silent Auction at the Lions Club Fall Yard Sale and the Mt. Airy Oktoberfest both held in September, in addition to sales after church on three Sundays, our parishioners and community had the opportunity to bid on 55 beautiful baskets made by our very own talented

"Basket Brigade". In addition, two beautiful American Girl dolls with handmade outfits and many accessories were separately raffled along with bidding on many interesting Silent Auction items. After several months and many work hours invested by our large committee we are proud to report a profit of \$6,679 was earned to help support our church expenses and ministries.

Thank you to all who helped and/or participated in each of our fundraisers to help make them successful again this year with a grand total of \$9,291.25 raised, an increase of \$1,050.40 over 2018!

Submitted by Marilyn Hancock

### **Lector Report**

In the early church, a lector was a person trained in reading scripture who was appointed by the clergy person in charge of the congregation to read lessons or lead the prayers of the people. The term is from the Latin, "to read." By the third century this ministry was performed by those ordained to the minor order of lector (reader). The minor orders became steps leading to ordination to the priesthood. The lector read from the ambo (lectern) in the basilicas of the fourth and fifth century. These minor orders were not continued in Anglicanism.

Today, our lectors read the lessons and psalms and the prayers of the people during service time. Lectors should have a strong reading voice, be familiar with the worship service, and comfortable with microphones. They also should be flexible, being able to spontaneously "fill in." The ministry leader currently schedules the lectors and reports this to the church secretary. The leader also trains new lectors. We are always open to having more lectors.

This year, we had a pool of roughly 13 adults who served at the 10:30 service and 4 adults at the 8:30 service (who are also chalicists).

If you would like to be a lector, please contact Peter Sabonis (301-639-2561).

Submitted by Peter Sabonis.

#### **Memorial Garden Report**

The Memorial Garden had a busy year. The fountain pump was finally fixed after several faulty parts were swapped out. More annuals than ever adorned the garden with the help of new sponsorships. Varying levels of sponsorship are available for any parishioner or group to add their special pop of color. These sponsorships are important to maintain a welcoming vista and to continue funding the garden. If you would like to sponsor an area of the garden, please contact Laura, in the office for more details. Early spring planting can begin before the first frost. Peak spring and summer blooms will arrive before June, and autumn choices are available mid-august. New for 2020: Consider signing up for a new garden curator program; "The Fernishers"-you'll make new friends and see them grow! AND look for a Memorial Brick Campaign to launch in May.

Submitted by Ashley Conlon

#### **Outreach Committee Report**

Month	Initiative/Event	Committee Member
January		
February	A thank you cake to the congregation for their generosity in 2019	Jeannie and Lucy
March	\$500 donation to Mt. Airy Net. Lenten Calendar for Mt. Airy Net was a great success! Two other churches decided to use our calendar for themselves.	Outreach Funds Patty, Karen and Cheryl
April	Over \$1100 was donated to A is for Africa including matching funds from Outreach	Outreach Funds
June -August	Breakfast and lunch items for children in the 21771 area code collected and given to Mt. Airy Net	Cheryl and Lucy
AUGUST	Blanket collection for local animal shelters Magazines and books taken to Pleasant View.	Lucy Patty
September	Ministry Fair	Karen and Cheryl
October	A \$500 check given to Mt. Airy Net. Fourteen packages were made up and mailed to our parish kids in college.	Outreach Funds Peg, Gabby, Don and Cheryl
November	Thanksgiving dinners supported five families from Mt. Airy Net. Delivery of food to Mt. Airy Net \$500 donation given to Mt. Airy Net	Jeannie Don and Cheryl Outreach Funds
December	Angels were made for angel tree A new tree and decorations were donated Angel tree was decorated Gifts for foster kids and Pleasant View residents were separated Foster kids gifts were delivered Pleasant View gifts were delivered	Karen Conlon's Ashley and Marilyn Marilyn and Aline Cheryl and Don Marilyn
Ongoing Needs	Food collection for Mt. Airy Net Delivery of food to Mt. Airy Net. Monetary donation to Mt. Airy Net School supplies, help to Foster kids, Shepherd's Staff, collection of books and magazines for Pleasant View all as needed.	

In 2019 committee meetings were held on January 10, February 7, March 21, May 2, June 23, August 18, October 7, and December 5. The current members of the Outreach Committee are Jim Bullington, Patty Bullington, Marilyn Hancock, Karen Larrimore, Carla Kaufman, Jeannie Pellicier, Linda Bonifant-Travers, Beverly Williams, Cheryl Windsor, Peg Pelch, Gabby Markham and Lucy Winston. We strive to help our community and congregation in any way we can. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please ask a member of the Outreach Committee. Please join us at any time!

We are still looking for a chairperson to lead this group in 2020. Do you enjoy supporting the community? Would you like to help your fellow parishioners? If you feel this ministry is calling you, please see Kristin+.

Blessings,

Cheryl Windsor, Chairperson Outreach Committee

### **Parish Administrator Report**

It's hard to believe I have been with this wonderful St. James' family for three years! An added bonus of having this job is being able to count on work as a refuge during a season in my life when losses begin to occur. Your prayers are felt and greatly comforting. Thank you!

Increasing accessibility to worship has always been my "cause" so-to-speak. I feel that our increased efforts in relatable and dynamic communications is making a difference in how we relate to one another as well as the wider community. You can find information at our bulletin boards located in the narthex, on the lower level at church, and at the Thrift Shop. Creating outside-the-box bulletin boards is a challenge I thoroughly enjoy.

One of my goals for 2019 was to reimagine our website. With the technical expertise of Chris Richard, who is always so giving of his time, our upgraded website was launched. I believe it is a better representation of who St. James' is and how we wish to interact with the world. Digitally we can be found at our website (<a href="https://www.stjamesmtairy.org">https://www.stjamesmtairy.org</a>) and our Facebook page (<a href="https://www.stjamesmtairy.org">https://www.stjamesmtairy.org</a>).

In the first six months of the year time allowed for some clean out of the records room. I believe it's reasonable to get our archives into tip-top shape in the coming year.

Aging equipment and contracts ending bring with them the necessity for research into upgrades and best values. To that end, we have signed a new contract with CopyDoc which is the service company we've been using for several years to service our new model Canon copier. It is shiny with all the latest technology and it also requires less prayers during times such as Christmas and Easter.

An updated directory was printed in December. If you did not receive a copy please pick one up in the narthex and, of course, be sure to let me know if your information changes.

If you are interested in the use of our Columbarium located in the beautiful Memorial Garden please pick up our updated brochure in the narthex and feel free to call and schedule an appointment to ask questions. Please also consider scheduling a time with Kristin+ to discuss what you might desire for your own arrangements.

Looking forward to a joy-filled 2020!

Respectfully submitted, Laura Davis, Parish Administrator

### **2019 Parish Statistics**

The following information has been recorded in the parish records of St. James' Episcopal Church since last year's Annual Meeting:

#### Baptisms - 7

Rowan Jameson Echeverria Sam Aman Avery January 13, Baptism of Our Lord

Finn Douglas Pond Sophia Jean Wangui February 24, 7 Epiphany

Flynn Mitchell Conlon Andrew Thomas Sauvage

April 21, Easter Day

Elizabeth Annemarie Brown

June 9, Pentecost

#### **Confirmations - 0**

#### Marriages - 0

#### Deaths - 3

Mary Spaulding Pfefferkorn, March 2
Anne June Kratzer, April 24
Joseph Francis Peter Marick, October 4

Upon request, our facilities are available as part of our stewardship requirement and as an outreach for community events.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** 

**Narcotics Anonymous** 

FGOG Embroidery Group

Quartermania Fundraisers

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Diocese of Maryland

Federated Garden Clubs of MD

**Boy Scout Troop 829** 

Girl Scouts (various)

Attendance at Key Services		
Easter	279	
Vigil	48	
Day	231	
Christmas	328	
Eve - 4:30p	191	
Eve - 8:30p	137	
Ave. Sun. Attendance	93	

### **Receiving Treasurer Report**

Here are figures for 2019 and 2020, so you can see how we are doing with our pledging.

<u>2019</u> <u>2020</u>

64 Pledging Families (as of January 2019) 63 Pledging Families (as of December 2019)

Amount \$191,760.00 Amount: \$183,515.00

Praying everyone who contributed either by pledge or plate in 2019 will consider pledging in 2020. The Vestry sets the budget for the year by the pledges and even though we appreciate the money given in the plate that is an unknown factor and cannot be figured in the budget. So pray ab out if you can step out in faith and make a pledge. Thank you.

Again, let us give thanks to God for blessing in year 2019 and that He will be with us in year 2020, giving many more blessings.

Respectfully submitted, Aline Sautter, Receiving Treasurer

### **Sunday School Report**

We hope you have had an opportunity to witness our active lower level on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. when Sunday School, preschool through high school, gathers for classes. It is a busy and joyful place with an enrollment of over 40 students.

Our team of faithful and dedicated teachers include: With thanks to parent volunteers and "sub" teachers:

Yvette Allen – Bible Stories for Preschoolers Betsy Davis – Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Natalie DelRegno – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades Joan Fader – Middle-High School Grades Nancy Nanavaty – Group activities Mara Snyder, Blix Winston – Children's music

Jessica Bahorich, Sarah Brown, Jen & Sam Grimes, Angie Ireland Molly Kilmore, Karen Phillips, Peter Sabonis

<u>Our Sunday School curriculum</u> used for all grades kindergarten through high school focuses on the day's gospel readings with age related lessons/activities. The preschool children enjoy learning a different Bible story each week with a simple activity.

All grade levels work together during a 4th Sunday Fun group activity during class time with a focus on outreach. They have participated in making seasonal crafts and cards for nursing home residents, supporting A is for Africa projects and breakfast-in-a-bag donations. In addition, all classes gather for Advent wreath making, Lenten activities, Palm Sunday role playing and an Easter egg hunt. The assistance from our older students during these activities is appreciated and enjoyed by the younger children.

**Sunday School Team Leaders:** 

Yvette Allen, Betsy Davis, Joan Fader *It is a joy to work with your children!* 

#### **Usher Report**

Ushers are here to greet the people coming to church. We hand out bulletins, help people to their seats if needed, let them know where the restrooms are, check the sound system, and pass the collection plate. At the 10:30 service the ushers take the wine and bread to the altar for communion.

Being an usher has responsibilities but is a fairly easy job. I have been doing the job for 8 years, shortly after joining the church. We have lost a few volunteers but gained a new one Bobby Brown. Our current volunteers are: 8:30 Cheri McClanahan, Dave Oland, Tom Kaufman, 10:30 are Jim Bullington, Vic Pellicier, Lynda Ellis, Tyler DelRegno and Cory DelRegno. More volunteers are always welcomed.

Thanks to all of the volunteers. Submitted by Jim Bullington

#### **Youth Group Report**

Youth Group continued to grow in 2019. In the winter and spring we continued the theme of "The Big Questions" focusing every meeting around questions of faith and the church the youth generated at the start of the year. In the fall we began learning about the WAY OF LOVE: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life. The WAY OF LOVE is an invitation from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, to "grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world." It includes seven spiritual practices that can help us grow: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest, which we explored at our monthly meetings.

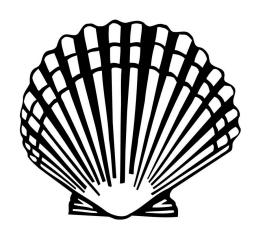
Our fourth Sunday fellowship outings this year included bowling, hiking, bon fires and s'mores, ice skating, and cookie baking to name a few.

Youth from St. James' also participated in Diocesan Youth Events, including Bishop Unplugged, and the New Beginnings and Happening retreats.

A shout out and big welcome to Vic Pellicier and Annie Horrigan who joined Kara Rosenker, Bobby Brown, and Rev. Kristin as Youth Group leaders! They have brought great creativity and joy to the group.

-Youth Team

## **NOTES**



#### St. James' Episcopal Church

in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

1307 North Main Street, Mount Airy, MD 21771 301.829.0325 – Church Office 301.829.9773 – Fax 301.829.0014 – Nursery School 301.829.0314 – Thrift Shop

> Office email: office@stjamesmtairy.org Website: www.stjamesmtairy.org

The Rev. Kristin Krantz, Rector
Richard Drehoff Jr., Music Director
Laura Davis, Parish Administrator
Patricia Castle, Director of St. James' Nursery School
Sharon Hansen, Business Manager of St. James' Nursery School
Sandy Baker, St. James' Thrift Shop Manager
Katelynn Marshall, Sunday Nursery Attendant

rector@stjamesmtairy.org music@stjamesmtairy.org office@stjamesmtairy.org school@stjamesmtairy.org school@stjamesmtairy.org thriftshop@stjamesmtairy.org

Holy Eucharist: 8:30 & 10:30 am / Sunday School: 9:30 am

The mission of the churches of the Diocese of Maryland is to ENCOUNTER Christ everywhere and ENGAGE in God's mission of reconciliation in the world.