



**February 10, 2019**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION  
For The Year of Our Lord 2018**

**The Church of St. James the Less  
Ashland, Virginia**

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff – Bishop Suffragan  
The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff – Bishop Associate  
The Rev. Jeffrey D. “Rock” Higgins – Priest-In-Charge  
The Rev. Deacon Harrison Higgins - Deacon  
Dr. Pamela James – Interim Music and Choir Director  
Margaret Rush – Parish Administrator  
Cameron Stiles – Treasurer  
Yancey Jones & Richard Shirey – Asst. Treasurers  
Bobbie Street – Parish Nurse  
Loida Matthews – Nursery Attendant (retired, Oct. 2018)

**VESTRY MEMBERS 2018**

John Hoar – 2019  
Yancey Jones – 2019  
George Spagna – 2019  
Dawn Stockbridge – 2020 (to complete the term of Ricki Carson)  
Rebecca Cline – 2020 (resigned to relocate)  
George Spagna – 2020 (to complete the term of Rebecca Cline)  
Janet Taylor – 2020  
Mary Ann Kinser – 2021 (resigned due to illness)  
Randy Marshall – 2021  
Alex Meade – 2021  
Will Reed – 2021 (to complete the term of Mary Ann Kinser)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

Table of Contents	2
Agenda	3
Parish Statistics	4
Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting	5
Treasurer's Report	8
Senior Warden Report	9
Priest's Report	10
Committee Reports	13
Financial Reports	24

**St. James the Less  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
February 10, 2019  
9 am**

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	<b>The Rev. Rock Higgins</b>
<b>Call to Order:</b>	<b>John Hoar, Senior Warden</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes, 2018 Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>Amendment to Bylaws:</b>	<b>John Hoar, Senior Warden</b>
<b>Vestry Election:</b>	<b>John Hoar</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	<b>Cami Stiles</b>
<b>Report from Diocesan Convention:</b>	<b>George Spagna</b>
<b>Review of approved budget:</b>	<b>George Spagna</b>
<b>Sr. Warden Vestry Report:</b>	<b>John Hoar</b>
<b>Priest's Report:</b>	<b>The Rev. Rock Higgins</b>
<b>New Business</b>	
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>Closing prayer and adjournment</b>	

**PARISH STATISTICS \***

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
*Active units	357	356	391	423	441	427	430	301**	304	365
	+									
	+									
Baptisms	6	3	4	1	7	3	5	2	2	6
Confirmations	10	1	6	9	4	5	10	0	6	0
Receptions	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Reaffirmations	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Marriages	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Funerals	3	2	11	4	5	6	5	3	0	10
	+									
	+									
Sunday Holy Eucharist	101	101	105	104	104	103	104	101	107	107
Sunday (MP or EP)	2	0	1	5	0	9	12	9	9	6
Weekday Holy Eucharist	52	54	55	58	57	46	57	45	55	54
Weekday (MP or EP)	29	42	37	35	37	28	1	11	7	5
Eucharist to Sick & Shut-ins	5	2	9	2	6	6	42	43	57	24
Other Offices – Compline, Noonday Prayer, Weddings, Burials.	0	0	12	6	10	5	6	5	2	2

*{Note: Sacraments which included Holy Eucharist are counted under that Heading}*

*\*Does not include children under 16 years of age.*

*\*\* Church database was cleaned up; this number more accurately reflects the parish.*

**St James the Less**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting - February 11, 2018**

**DRAFT Minutes:**

- Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting 2017
  - Dick Shirey made the motion to accept the minutes.
  - George Spagna seconded the motionMotion passed the minutes were accepted as written.

**Vestry Election:**

- The slate of new vestry members was presented:
  - Alejandra Meade (Alex, or Ale)
  - Mary Anne Kinser
  - Randy Marshall
  - Dawn Stockbridge (two-year term)
- Those rotating off vestry are:
  - Ricki Carson (moving), two-year term
  - Dawn Davis
  - Richard Grosse
  - Beth Markwood
- Motion was given by Cami Stiles to accept the volunteers as our new vestry members.
  - Bob Hughes seconded the motion
  - Motion carried.
- Yancey gave thanks to the outgoing vestry members, and congratulations to the new elected vestry members.

**Treasurer's Report:** was given by Cami Stiles

See attached report.

- Motion was made by Derrick Rosser to accept the treasure's report with corrections. The Bank's name has been changed from EVB to SONA bank.
  - Dick Shirey seconded the motion.
  - The motion carried.

**Report from Diocesan Convention:**

- It was a quite Convention.
  - The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick, Assisting Bishop announced his retirement.
  - The Rt. Rev. Bishop Shannon is the Diocesan Bishop.
  - The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff is a Suffragan Bishop to Bishop Shannon.
  - The Rt. Rev. Bob Ihloff will be Bishop Associate while the process towards a second Bishop Suffragan is followed.
  - The Executive Board will meet until the next Diocesan Convention in two years.
- Janet Taylor is the parish representative.
- Janet is also the Executive Representative for the North Richmond Region, on the Bishop's Executive Board. This is a three-year term.

**Senior Warden's Report:**

See attached Report. Yancey thanks all involved in 2017, who helped make the past year successful. It has been a trying year and the congregation needs to be commended for the hard work of moving toward a successful end to the year.

**Priest in Charge Report:**

See PIC report attached.

Rock is thankful for all who have helped in his 150 days of being here, and reminds us as Priest in Charge (PiC) he is serving under a three-year contract. Many have asked about

converting the contract. Which cannot be considered before March 10, 2019. However, things are going well, and the congregation is healing and moving forward. Pledges are up, and attendance has increased.

All are pleased that Celal Kamran (with his wife Erin) has joined us in an internship to discover what we need as a leader for Christian Formation. All are eager to find out what he does discover as he serves with us through the school year.

The Rev. Deacon Harrison Higgins will join us in a few weeks after he says goodbye to his present assignment. The bishop has assigned him to work with Rock Higgins (laugh, Higgins and Higgins) with one of his assignments to be renewing the College ministry with Randolph Macon College.

Finally, Pledge cards were handed out for the congregation to fill in after much thought. This is not for money but for a mission. What passion is in your heart that can transformed into a mission? There are plenty of chances to participate in what is happening in the buzz happening at the church: Ushering, working with the youth, sewing choir robes, teaching, cleaning, cooking, helping with Outreach programs, helping property, heading committees, etc.

**New Business:**

none

**Old Business:**

None

Rock and the vestry thanks all involved in the working and functioning of the church. It takes everyone to keep this community going.

Thanks to all who have rolled up their sleeves and helped in the running of the church.

**The Annual Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:42 AM**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kurowski Taylor Registrar

## AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

**Amendment to the By-Laws:** In a special meeting on January 22, 2017, the By-Laws were changed to move the number of Vestry Members from 12 to 9. We recommend the removal of the passed Amendment so that the original language in **By-Law III. A** returns. It states: *The Vestry shall consist of 12 members of the church, who are 16 years old or older, who are confirmed communicants in good standing and are known to the Treasurer. Vestry members shall be elected (as per Canon) at the Annual Meeting to serve for three years, four members being elected each year. **No person shall serve two consecutive full terms on the Vestry.***

## ELECTION OF VESTRY / VESTRY SLATE

### Nancy Chamlee

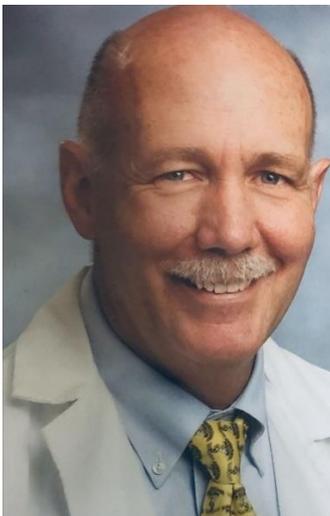


Bob and I joined St. James The Less in 1995. We transferred from St. Thomas in Richmond. I grew up in Chase City, Va. and was a member of St. John's Episcopal.

I recently retired from Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center and Richmond Community Hospital. My role there was Operations Manager in the Radiology Department. Retirement has given me the opportunity to become more involved in SJTL. I've enjoyed getting to know the children while helping with Mother's Morning Out. I was Co-Chair of this year's Stewardship Campaign. Serving on Altar Guild is very special to me and I enjoy working on the "flower side". The bell choir still lets me ring with them and I am thankful for their patience. Wednesday morning book group is a very special time with Rock+ and our small group.

When approached with "would I think about Vestry?", I was quick to say yes. I am looking forward to working with our group and bringing my gifts in service to the church I love.

### Tom Hubbard



I was born in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in Catonsville, Maryland, the fourth of ten (yes, ten!) children. My family attended the United Church of Christ. I first attended an Episcopal service on Easter, 1974. I was a junior at Randolph-Macon College and dating a fellow student, Susan Marshall. I invited her to go on a bike ride that Sunday. She agreed provided I go to church with her. I told her I would be glad to wait until after church. She said, "Sorry, no church, no bike ride." I have been going to church and riding bikes with her for the last forty-five years. Susan and I returned to Ashland twenty-eight years ago. I had just finished my Family Medicine Residency and we were looking for the best community and church family in which to raise our four sons. My first experience with the vestry was thirteen years ago when I went to a meeting to propose starting a free clinic in the basement. The members of the vestry were very enthusiastic about the idea and actually gave us twice the space I had proposed in hopes we could see twice as many patients! The people at St. James the Less have been a big

	part of my spiritual journey. I feel honored to be asked to serve on the vestry.
<p><b>Janet Rosser</b></p> 	<p>More than 25 years ago, my husband Derrick and I walked into St. James the Less on a Sunday in June. We had been looking for a church home for our family -- our son Sam was about 6 months old then -- and had not found any place that felt right to us. We walked through the doors carrying our baby, and a friendly soul immediately asked, "Who are you guys?" We were hooked. SJTL simply felt like home, and it still does. Through life's ups and downs, SJTL and its wonderful people have always been there to support us, and I am so very thankful to be a part of this church.</p> <p>I grew up in an Episcopal church in Danville, Virginia. After college and law school, where Derrick and I met, we settled in Hanover County. I currently work as a staff attorney at the Virginia Court of Appeals. We have three sons, and Will, our youngest, will graduate from high school this year.</p> <p>I served on the vestry about 10 years ago. I've been involved with a number of church committees, including two terms on the Chenery Committee. I also enjoy being a part of the bell choir. This is a very exciting time for our church, and I would like to serve on the vestry as we plan our path for the future.</p>
<p><b>Lou Flanagan</b></p> 	<p><b><i>Lou Flanagan will be considered for Vestry contingent upon the Approval of the Amendment to the By-Laws.</i></b></p> <p>Joanne and I have been members of St. James The Less for about 50 years. We have been active members since that time with our three children Trey, Katie, and Bob. During that time I have taught Sunday school, served on the Chenery Committee, served on and chaired the Stewardship Committee, served on the search committee, had tenures on the vestry serving as senior warden for two years. St. James The Less is a very important part of my life and I look forward to participating in its continued growth.</p>

**TREASURER'S REPORT (FINANCIALS ATTACHED AT THE BACK OF THIS PACKET)**

**REVIEW OF APPROVED BUDGET (BUDGET ATTACHED AT THE BACK OF THIS PACKET)**

## **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT & REFLECTION**

As I prepared my report for the Annual Meeting I started thinking back over the year as Senior Warden. An overarching theme came to mind that the year was a year of loss.

We had an unusual number of deaths for this parish in the last year. People like Maud Brumbach, Charlie Thompson, Ned Stiles, Tom Street, and most recently Jim Cobb, to name a few.

We lost parish families because they moved away, folks like the Carsons, the Holts, the Clines, and the Robbs. The Robbs were a triple loss. As our organist and music director for seven years, Paul was loved for his direction and his organ playing. Joann directed the St. Cecelia's Choir and help ground the choir with her beautiful voice. Paul directed the bell choir and even arranged several pieces of music for them to play. Big void to fill.

The more I pondered this I started to realize that, while we had loss, we also had many gains.

Early in the year, Celal Kamran joined us as a Christian Formation intern. He and his wife, Erin, were part of the congregation until June when he left to go off to seminary in Alexandria. While here, he developed guidelines for what we need in a Christian Formation Director. We started our search in late summer and we are still trying to fill that position. A committee, made up of Jane Jones, Alex Meade, Melissa Roberts, Beth Harrison, Rock+ and myself, have interviewed several candidates. We thought we were on to one, but that candidate seems to have vanished. The search continues.

The Rev. Deacon Harrison Higgins joined our parish staff, and boy did we hit the jackpot! He has started an active college ministry and leads a weekly grief group, along with his other duties. And who doesn't love to hear him preach!

Rock and the vestry started laying the foundation for Latino Worship services in the future, including sending Rock to a conference sponsored by the National Church on the topic. Now we have been selected to be one of ten churches to do a trial in a new Latino ministry program. It will be starting soon.

We rebuilt the front steps after years of talking about it, racing to complete the rebuild by Easter.

After many years of not doing this, we once again had a joint service with Shiloh Baptist Church. Rock+ was the preacher and had an opportunity to get his "Baptist Preacher" on. More to come.

The night before the elections, the Ashland Churches got together to pray for unity and peace. There will be more of these types of services in the future.

We started a Bluegrass Mass on Sunday evenings once a month which started strong. It is fun and different. There was a pause while the musicians, Jonathan and Antonia, had a baby!

As I said before, the loss of the Robbs was big. We started looking for a replacement for Paul only to find we were joining seven other churches in the region who were also looking for an organist and/or music director. But we found Pam James, thanks to Rock. Pam was the music director for the Appomattox Governors School, however, she wasn't an organist. She played the piano and directed choirs. She came on to help us through the summer. She then extended

through the fall, and she is still with us. Even though she wasn't an organist she has taken it upon herself to learn to play. Pam is a wonderful person and always chipper and very dedicated in her service to Saint James the Less.

Thanks to Beth Harrison, who brought what has become known as the Fourth Quarter to the Vestry in September. The vestry fully supported the project with space and funding. So far it's been very popular.

We had a visit from The Most Reverend Daniel Sarfo, the Archbishop of West Africa and Bishop of Kumasi, Kenya, Reverend Canon Malcolm Rodgers of Liverpool, England and the Reverend Victor King of Calvary Chapel at Hanover, C.H. A very big deal.

We hope that our numbers will continue to grow. Even though the pledging number is a little lower going into 2019, the amount of the average pledge is up. We keep striving to spread the Good News through all of our programs like Caritas, Feed More, the work with the YMCA and the Clinic.

And last, where would we be without our great spiritual leader Rock+, who is truly the rock of our ministry at Saint James the Less. In his short time here, he has done wonders to grow our family, spread our ministry into our community, nurture our spirits, provide comfort to those who mourn, and lead our parish into the future.

So, while we have had a rough time, we have a great deal to be thankful for and proud of, as we venture forward. To our families who have lost loved ones, you are all in our prayers.

On a personal level, I want to thank all of you who serve St James the Less, those known and unknown. And there are many. I especially want to thank this vestry, as they have been awesome to work with.

John Hoar, Sr. Warden.

## **PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT**

The Rev. Rock Higgins, Priest-in-Charge

Today I mark my first 17 months at St. James the Less. As a Priest in Charge, a glorified temp no matter how one puts it, I have never been made to feel "less than" in any way as your priest. I have been encouraged, supported, and made to feel like the Rector since day 1. You have welcomed not just me, but my family and my extended family as a part of you. In one month, from today actually, we can begin speaking to my coming on fully as the Rector of this wonderful parish. If you have thoughts, good, bad, worried, or enthusiastic, please let them be known to the Wardens or one of the Vestry. In a week, we will be looking at a Mutual Ministry Review where they evaluate my leadership, and I give feedback on the systems and processes as I see them.

As John shares in the Senior Warden's Report, it has been a year of loss and gain. We grieve in the significant members that have passed, and the devoted families who have moved away. With that, we have had an unbelievable year of expansion and growth in ministry opportunities.

We have continued with our excellent worship traditions and broadened some of our work. We continued with our Contemplative services on the last Sunday of the school year months, and then added our Bluegrass Mass on second Sundays. We kept all of our Holy Week offerings and added Holy Saturday, and my favorite service of the year, Easter Vigil. We re-started new work with Shiloh Baptist, and I led a worship there with our choir singing. Soon we will have them come and lead worship for us here. We will continue to look at how we can best proclaim the Gospel in many ways. We now are recording our sermons most Sundays and putting them out live on Facebook and letting them stay out there after the fact. One snow day, I led Morning Prayer and it was viewed hundreds of times. We are living in a different time when we truly have to do what St. Paul said, "I have become all things to all people that I might by all means save some." We will keep looking at the "by all means" for St. James the Less and Ashland.

Looking at the demographics for our section of Hanover, I feel called to reach out to our Latino brothers and sisters, and I spent 9 days last August getting training for this. We recently were selected to do a trial of "Latino Ministry in a Box" through TryTank at Virginia Seminary. I look forward to see where this can go as we begin Bible Studies in Spanish starting in Lent.

We have had many leaders come through our doors to help us. Celal Kamran came in the spring as our Formation Intern, and he helped us focus on what is needed in for this permanent position. The Rev. Deacon Harrison Higgins came on mid-Lent and has been a huge blessing, both to me and the parish. His work is mostly with R-MC Campus Ministry, but he also connects in so many ways. I thank God daily that he is with us. We were surprised and delighted to have Robert Dilday come this summer as a Mid-Atlantic Intern. The Diocese asked if he could serve with us in his seminary preparation. We were fortunate to have the time he was able to join us. When the Robbs retired to our great loss, a friend from my time at St. Paul's in Richmond was able to come on as Interim Accompanist and Choir Director. Pam James has been a joy and delight. I have been most impressed with how she chose to jump in and begin to learn to play the organ. Her exceptional skills enabled her to expand her skill set in so short a time. Because of our difficulty in the search she has graciously extended her stay with us. We are still searching for permanent Formation Director and Choir Master & Organist candidates. I have been reached out to recently about both, and look forward to continuing the process with both potential candidates.

There have been two major highlights for me. Because of my work with the Diocesan Triangle of Hope (Virginia, Liverpool, England, and Kumasi, Ghana), we were asked in November to host the Most Rev. Archbishop Daniel Sarfo, Archbishop of West Africa and Bishop of Kumasi. That same day the Rev. Canon Malcolm Rogers of the Diocese of Liverpool joined us. I will never forget this day. We were moved by the Archbishop's words to us and the blessings he gave individually to most of the congregation. Canon Rogers enjoyed a day on the organ, his first passion, and could not have been happier. Such a wonderful blessing to have experienced this in this place we love. I had been with the Archbishop in Kumasi with my Triangle of Hope work in April, and will be leading a team from Virginia there in June of this year. I hope we can look to having a partnership with a parish in Liverpool and in Kumasi so that we can grow and celebrate our faith together. Through these exchanges we can get a sense of the blessings of the Anglican Communion, and grow in our common faith despite our different cultures.

The other highlight has been our continuing work with the Ashland Clergy Convocation. We hosted the first of our renewed work by hosting a Prayer Service for Christian Unity the night before the elections. In such divisive times, the clergy stood together and prayed for unity in Christ's Church in Ashland. We had a second joint service for Epiphany at Duncan Memorial. We

plan on coming together a few more times, the next being Palm Sunday morning, and trust this will be an ongoing work.

Days are bright and things are good. Areas which are a concern which will be a focus in the coming months include our new Latino work, broadened and increased Children and Youth formation programming, looking at our financial procedures and moving to best practices, and connecting with many who have stepped back recently. All these are things we can do, together.

I thank God every day in my prayers for this parish, for your spiritual lives, and the opportunity to serve as your priest. Blessings in this new year, and thank you!

The Rev. Rock Higgins, Priest in Charge  
10 February 2019

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Memorial Gifts Committee**

Along with the Property Committee and a representative from the Altar Guild, the committee considers and makes recommendations to the Vestry for gifts to the parish given as memorials or celebrations of loved ones.

### **Parish Auditors**

A group consists usually of three people, who conduct an annual audit of parish financial records and practices.

*Nancy Fines (752.7890)*

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

2018 was a year of Blessings for Saint James the Less Property Committee. We enjoy the blessings of time and talent from a dedicated pool of volunteers, namely Dale Hill, Tom Fritter, and Clint Rose, and Ann and Wilbur Lawrence, and Mary Lou Brown, all of whom tend to our grounds and gardens. We have had volunteers again mow our extensive property allowing Saint James the Less's budget to work harder in other areas.

Our big projects in 2018: The stairs at the front of the church were replaced. A tree in our front yard was cut down before it fell down. And the HVAC system in the lower level was completely replaced.

## **SUNDAY MORNING PARTICIPATION**

### **MUSIC**

The music program at St. James the Less is currently in transition. The community bade a fond farewell to Paul and Joanne Robb after years of dedicated service and beautiful music that richly enhanced our worship. The Robbs created three fine ensembles offering opportunities for youth and adults to praise the Lord through music.

Dr. Pamela James joined the community as Interim Choir Director/Piano Accompanist. Beginning in October, Pam began learning to play the organ to more fully serve the church during this interim period. The search for a permanent Choir Director/Organist continues.

As always, the Adult Choir continues to lead music during the 10:00 service. This fine group of people always welcomes new members to join them from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings for rehearsal and at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for a quick review of the day's musical offerings.

The Handbell Choir rehearses from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays. Due to some personnel changes, the group currently stands at 6 members. These dedicated folks are working very creatively at present, but they are sorely in need of new members in order to offer a full expanse of handbell music. Please consider joining the Handbell Choir. The ability to read music is not necessary.

The St. Cecilia Choir resumed on September, but due to the "graduation" of quite a few 5th graders, the membership dropped to three singers. At Rock+'s suggestion, rehearsals have been moved to Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. at the beginning of Sunday School. In addition, Sally Ellithorpe has revived the Cherub Choir which meets in the nursery during Sunday School. St.

James the Less encourages all, but especially the youngest, to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Contact Pam James to participate in one of the ensembles. Whether singing or ringing, musical contribution during worship rewards the musician and the church alike.

## **ACOLYTE GUILD**

**Acolyte Recognition Sunday was October 21, 2018.**

We offer a special thanks to Corinna Cline who served for many years and graduated this past spring. Currently 22 young people are serving regularly as acolytes at St. J's and 3 young adult alternates. We recognize and salute them for their service to the church.

### **Congratulations to our returning acolytes:**

**Third Year Honor** Riley Massey, Will Rosser, and Jake Stockbridge

**Second Year Honor** Virginia Meade, Hardy Meade, Grace May, Henry Shifflett, Alex Maria

**First Year Honor** Flory Brockwell, Danielle Sergi,

**Third Year Senior** Anabel Shifflett

**Second Year Senior** Deklan Cauthorne, and Ian Hughes

**First Year Senior** Kalani Jones, Peyton Chambers, Sophie May, and Hayden Massey

**First Year Junior** Quinn Cauthorne, Zachary Maria

**Second Year** Prudence Reynolds

**Beginner**

**First Year Beginner** Sojo Higgins and Joseph Meade

**College alternates:** Danielle Stockbridge, and Claire & Patrick Reagan

It is a pleasure working and serving with these young people. Their dedication and service to St. James the Less are second to none. I encourage you to let them know how important they are to our worship and congratulate **them on a job well done.**

*Steve Pace, Acolyte Master (516.6107) (retired)*  
*Mark Maria, Acolyte Scheduler ([markm2018az@gmail.com](mailto:markm2018az@gmail.com))*

## **LECTORS**

Lectors participate in services by reading Scripture and Prayers at the 10:00 service on Sunday, and at other special services throughout the year (e.g. Christmas, Easter). Our 2018 lectors have been *Joyce Blunt, Don Bruce, Jenny Bruce, John Hoar, Kolbey Hogeboom, Robert Hughes, Lyde Longaker, Grace May, Jim May, Hardy Meade, Tanya Reagan, Keith Redington, George Spagna, Val Sutton, Richard Taylor, and Court Warfield*. Special thanks to Sylvia Spagna, who filled in for Court Warfield on several Sundays. If you feel called to participate in this ministry, please let George Spagna or Father Rock know, and we'll put you into the rotation.

*George Spagna ([gspagna@rmc.edu](mailto:gspagna@rmc.edu))*

## **Counters' Group**

Two members count the offering money each Sunday (immediately following the 10 am service), deliver it to the night depository at the bank and record the figures for the Treasurer. This is a very important ministry. Please contact Nancy if you are interested in assisting.

*Nancy Fines (752.7890)*

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Assist during the services by leading prayers and assisting with communion. EMs also help by taking communion to the "shut-ins" and sick following Sunday worship when requested.

Eucharistic Ministers are appointed by the Rector who requests a license from the Bishop. Please talk to Father Rock if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

*Cami Stiles (798.5030)*

### **St. Francis Guild**

The Guild serves families and the parish in time of loss of a loved one, primarily during the vigil period and funeral service. Responsibilities typically include participating in the vigil and serving as a pallbearer, usher, and/or lector during the service.

*Derrick Rosser (798.3057)*

### **St. Hilda's Altar Guild**

Several teams work with the Clergy to ensure that the altar and sanctuary are prepared for all services. Provides elements for Holy Eucharist, maintains vestments for worship services, provides flowers for worship services and decorates the Church for major feast days and other special occasions such as weddings and funerals. New members are encouraged and welcomed to participate; no experience necessary, training provided!

*- Karen Fritter (798-2262), Sylvia Spagna (752.6513)*

### **Ushers**

Assist at the Sunday 10 am service and at special services by assisting the congregation with seating, answering questions, collecting the offering, bringing the Bread and Wine for Communion to the Altar during the Offertory, etc. Head Ushers, men and women, volunteer a week at a time. This is an easy and wonderful way to serve the congregation and to meet and greet your fellow parishioners. Thank you for your service in the past. If you are interested in being a part of the team, contact the office, 798.6336.

## **EDUCATION & FORMATION**

### **Children & Youth**

For the children of SJTL, the 2018 calendar year began with the Epiphany play, offered during 10 am worship. The last Sunday of the year we counted pop tops and donated them to the Ronald McDonald House in memory of Charlotte Reynolds.

In August we offered our fourth annual SJTL Vacation Bible School for four evenings in August. Twenty-five children gathered each night for a light dinner, followed by a lesson, activities and music. On the final night the parents joined us for dinner and a musical offering. Thank you to the many helpers, especially Ragan Dyer, Sally Ellithorpe, Brett Bajcsi, Father Rock, and Sojo Higgins. The last special event of the year was the intergenerational Advent Fair. Parishioners were invited to make advent wreaths while the children made advent calendars and decorations and selected Christmas gifts for their parents.

Our longtime nursery attendant, Loida Matthews, retired this year, and we celebrated her 10 years of service. We have a staff of three RMC students as attendants now and all is well.

Over the last five years we have seen attendance consistently drop in Sunday school. For 2018-2019 we are continuing the practice of merging classes, as the numbers are small and we lack volunteer teachers. Thanks to Melissa Roberts who continues to teach and to Betty Tharrington who assists. Melissa's dedication to teaching and to the children has been unwavering. We introduced a new curriculum this year which the children are enjoying.

The children continue to be involved in church services as acolytes. In terms of music education, despite efforts made, we do not have a St Cecelia's Choir. Many thanks go to Sally Ellithorpe who is once again volunteering her time to lead a Cherub Choir that sings four times during the year.

We are pleased to welcome many new faces at SJTL each week. We are excited to have them join in community with us, but we are aware of the need to seriously address education and formation. The vestry has allocated funds for a part-time Christian Education director for the last several years, but we have been unsuccessful in finding the right candidate. As Rock makes this area of development a priority for SJTL, we encourage your support and participation.

*Jane Jones (798.6919)*

### **Youth Group – Middle School**

Youth Groups at SJTL are a ministry of outreach to our community. We respect and welcome youth of all faith traditions at all of our Middle School Youth Group activities, honoring each person's right to seek and worship the Great Mystery however they are led. We strive to give them a safe space to have a REALLY GOOD TIME while staying within Christian behavior norms. We also provide opportunities to serve the community, including hosting a Youth Worship Service, cooking / serving pancakes at the annual church Pancake Supper, and participating in diocesan Youth Days of Service. We also have two weekend retreats each year where we include activities that teach skills around resolving conflict and building healthy relationships, and we do not shy away from hard topics when they arise. Youth Group provides an environment of safe honest seeking, where the goal is fun, curiosity, dialog, and kids finding and owning their own answers to life's hard questions. It is our prayer that Middle School Youth Group will serve as another layer of emotional and spiritual protection as our youth navigate the minefield of adolescence.

*Stacey Woodbridge <staceywoodbridge@gmail.com>  
Matt Woodbridge <mcwoodbridge@gmail.com>  
Emily Folsom <edfstarr@gmail.com>  
Charlie Rosser <crosser4@gmu.edu>  
PK Kinser <pkkinser@gmail.com>*

## **Youth Group – High School**

The senior high youth group consists of high school students and 4 adult volunteer leaders from SJTL. The group meets Sunday evenings during the school year, from September to June. This group is inclusive and is not limited solely to SJTL high school students. Our goals are fellowship, hospitality, outreach, and spiritual development. We take a developmental, gradual approach to outreach, whereby we build in many small-scale tasks throughout the year, with week-long summer experiences that involve a more intensive involvement and commitment. We expect that each youth group member will participate in one of our more intensive experiences of outreach by the end of their time in youth group. Our hope is for our graduates to leave youth group prepared for a life-time of outreach and service that is grounded in a strong personal faith and to the community of the Episcopal Church.

Approximately one third of our activities involve fellowship and hospitality (e.g., a shared meal most Sunday meetings that is donated by a youth group family; get-to-know-you, non-competitive and silly games; participation in the Parish Shrine Mont Retreat; hosting a 'Gratitude Event' to show appreciation and love for parents, grandparents, and church staff). Another third of the group's activities focus on spiritual development (e.g., group study and reflection of the day's lectionary, a short video, or other relevant materials; learning skills for forgiveness; group prayer; learning about non-violent communication, meditation or other mindfulness-oriented practices; preparation for and leading the High School Sunday Service). The remaining approximately one third of the group's efforts consist of outreach activities which include:

1. Gathering supplies for the Ashland Christian Emergency Society (ACES) through an annual scavenger hunt in the fall;
2. Hosting the Community Dinner for STJL in April;
3. Leading the congregation-wide Christmas gift program for ARC of Hanover to provide gifts for needy children in Hanover County.
4. Tri-Cities work camp in Petersburg to renovate homes in July.
5. Mission trips to assist to with disaster relief (e.g., flooding in White Sulphur Springs, WV; hurricane relief from Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Joaquin, Matthew, and Florence) and to provide service to others (e.g., assist with trail maintenance at National Parks).

An additional outreach activity related to disaster relief began in January 2016, through engagement with young adults who were active at St. James the Less when they were in high school through youth group and/or as an acolyte. This 'reunion' service trip is outreach both to those young adults and to those for whom we volunteer. This event occurs during winter break and involves a four-day trip and 2 & ½ days of service. Participation in this service trip has been about 12-14 young adults (including 2-3 sponsors (e.g., youth group leaders)).

In the winter and spring of 2018, our high school youth group participation ranged from 8-20 youth for most activities, with four adult volunteer leaders (Rebecca Cline, Derrick Rosser, Bryan Cline, and Aleta Meyer). We are grateful for the dedication of our adult volunteers, as well as for the support of the congregation (e.g., generosity with the Christmas Gift Program for ARC of Hanover; our Annual Car Wash Fundraiser; contributions from Chenery to support our two summer mission trips; and the availability and reliability of two vans that can transport 8 people and luggage at a time). As you know, the Clines 'retired' this spring. Father Rock has joined us

as a youth leader, which has been wonderful. We are still looking for two 'new' youth group leaders. If you are interested in getting involved as a youth group leader, please reach out to Father Rock to discuss and learn about expectations.

*Aleta Meyer (752-6620)  
Derrick Rosser (798.3057)*

## **ADULT FORMATION**

Adult Formation is alive and well at St. James the Less. The Adult Bible Study meets at 8:45 a.m. in the rectory. It met weekly in 2018, including through the summer. The content has primarily explored the lectionary reading for that Sunday, so that the sermon addresses the same text that we worked with in class.

We have about 26 members, with 12-16 present on any given Sunday. (We picked up some Presbyterians during the summer when their own Sunday School wasn't meeting.)

The second adult formation class was facilitated by John Friedman. It is a video-based discussion called "The Work of the People."

If you are interested in joining us on Sundays at 8:45 a.m., come on over. There is coffee, tea, and conversation that will change your life if you let it.

## **FOURTH QUARTER CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY**

On August 20, 2018, after consulting with Father Rock, I took a proposal to the Vestry, asking for their support and the temporary use of the rectory to form a center for elder spirituality. The Vestry gave its approval, and with the Chenery Committee allocated \$1500 for the use of the center. If you are interested, the proposal to the vestry is available on the church website, on our page: <http://www.stjamestheless.com/fourth-quarter-spiritual-center-because-games-not-over-yet>. Please read it. You will see how far we have come.

We have since renamed it FOURTH QUARTER, recognizing that the game isn't over yet. The letter mentions several ideas which we tried, but which didn't work, at least in the fall. No one wanted a book group of the sort I had envisioned. We have since rethought it, and Fr. Rock will offer a book group after Easter. Offering a Dream Group as a spiritual discipline was likewise not successful. But we have a full session of interested and trained people who will begin one under Bill Harrison's leadership in the next weeks. No one wanted a course in the life and teachings of Jesus, despite my claims that it was the best course they would ever take. Ah well...

What has been successful beyond anyone's expectations is the group we call "Grief and Gratitude", led by Harrison Higgins. It meets every Monday at 10:30 in the rectory. Jenny Bruce ran a Saturday workshop on "Cooking for One". Julie Ericksen ran her first workshop on "Non-violent Communication" that is an ongoing project. She ran another workshop in January, 2019, and practice groups are beginning Feb. 9.p.m. This is powerful work, and I encourage everyone (no age restrictions here) to sign up. Also successful were "Soup and Soul" on Thursdays. If you wish to be fed, body and soul, show up Thursdays at noon.

Activities for 2019 include a mediation group (twice a month, led by Bob Sneed) on Tuesdays at 11 in the rectory; Holy Play, art-inspired creative spiritual work (twice a month, on Fridays at 1pm, led by Lyde Longaker and Katherine Tinker). Father Rock and I will lead a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 16, for those of us with Memory issues. We will work on Bullet Journals as a coping mechanism, and the church will provide both the journals and the techniques to help us

remember what we might otherwise forget. The Dreamwork seminars will meet twice a month at 7pm Tuesdays. We are planning an Enneagram Workshop, led by a professional facilitator. Cathy Cawley is providing spiritual direction for those who are interested. She is co-leading Soup and Soul on Thursdays with me.

Fourth Quarter is growing because of the support and hard work of many people. Special thanks to the Vestry, the Chenery committee, Stephanie, Julie, Jenny, Lou, Joanne, Cathy, Lyde, Katherine, Margaret, Harrison+, Rock+, and Bill. And gratitude to those who have participated. It's a community at work here. And I am grateful.

This is perhaps more than you wanted to know about Fourth Quarter. It is my hope that, regardless of your chronological age, you will find something here that speaks to you. Try one thing. See what happens. Listen, and hear what God might be saying to you right here in Ashland, right now.

*Beth Harrison (540) 903.7000*

### **PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE**

The Parish Life Committee works together to support important events occurring during the year. This year we hosted two picnics at the beginning and end of the Christian education school year. As a congregation, we celebrated six baptisms; we also celebrated, even as we mourned, the lives of five of our dearly departed friends. Thanks to everyone who has helped tirelessly throughout this year. Without the helping hands of all parishioners these celebrations would not be possible.

*Randy Marshall, Vestry Liaison*

The **Supper Club** is a part of Parish Life, and provides a means for holding monthly dinners, in a home setting, and once a month as a potluck open to all, for parishioners and newcomers. Its purpose is to provide a relaxed and enjoyable fellowship gathering. Members participate by bringing a dish and agreeing to host two to three dinners each year. Individuals are rotated each month so that the members have opportunities to meet and get to know other members.

*Dani Stockwell*

### **WELCOME/NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE**

This committee's purpose is to carry out our mission to welcome all who appear on our doorstep. We have been seeing many visitors and newcomers during this past year, and attendance figures are healthy. Each first-time visitor that we notice is given a SJTL coffee mug containing our revised welcome brochure, an Episcopal Church 101 brochure, Rock+'s business card, and candy. Rock+ follows up with newcomers who complete pew cards, and we attempt to get newcomers connected with various groups that are of interest to them. We had a successful lunch for newbies in October, and we will be hosting another lunch on Feb. 17th. This one targets new families with young children. Please continue to assist us in providing a warm welcome to everyone. St. James the Less folks do a great job of this; please keep it up!

*Dawn Stockbridge, Vestry Liaison  
Jenny Bruce, Chair (798.0922)*

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Mission:** *We are a committee that connects to outreach initiatives in our church and in our community. Our hope is to provide oversight, vision, and support to our St. James the Less outreach efforts through awareness, education, connection, and communication.*

Each sub-committee listed below has its own primary contacts. If you would like more information or have an interest in being a part of the Outreach Committee, please contact Dani, or the office, for further guidance.

**ACES:** Since 1950's "To serve and address the unmet needs of the less fortunate in the Ashland community." ACES is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization supported by community groups, scouts, churches, schools and individuals in the Ashland, Doswell, Glen Allen, and Hanover areas of Hanover County.

**CARITAS:** SJTL is one congregation involved with CARITAS of Richmond, a community-based organization enabling member congregations to provide shelter and hospitality to homeless people in the Richmond metropolitan area; we're dedicated to opening our doors to our neighbors one week a year. This year, we hosted homeless families with children. Because CARITAS is revamping their own processes, we are not yet sure how we will best serve them in 2019.

**Chenery Fund:** The Christopher T. Chenery Fund was established in 1973 to honor Mr. Chenery, a former parishioner, and owner of horse racing's triple crown winner, Secretariat. The committee, currently led by Beth Markwood, administers requests for funding and consists of parishioners appointed by the Vestry and Rector, each serving a three-year term. The interest income generated from the fund is available for funding charities, outreach programs and parishioners' participation in retreats, conferences, camps and classes designed to promote Christian spiritual growth. The Fund also tithes to the Building Fund, the church budget and the principle reinvestment.

**Peter Paul Development Center:** Betty Moore organizes donations and volunteer activities for PPDC. The Mission of Peter Paul Development Center is: Educate the Child. Engage the Family. Empower the Community. We "adopted" a family of four children for Christmas; and Easter baskets for PPDC children were put together by SJTL Mother's Morning Out.

**SJTL Free Clinic:** "To offer a faith-based healing ministry to our qualified Hanover neighbors by providing free medical and dental health care with compassion, dignity and respect." We continue to serve the medical, dental, podiatry, and eye care needs of Hanover County residents who are uninsured and verified as low income, based on the US poverty guidelines. Located In Ashland-St. James the Less Free Clinic, Ashland Christian Free Podiatry Clinic, Shiloh Baptist Free Eye Care Clinic; Located in Mechanicsville-Cheryl H. Watson Memorial Free Clinic, Mechanicsville Christian Free Dental Clinic.

**SJTL Food Ministry:** Since 2015, a faith-based ministry collaborating with our community to provide nutritious food, education, and creative solutions to food insecurity in Hanover County, through a Backpack Program, and a Supplemental Food Program.

**Backpack Program** - weekend feeding program for local elementary, middle, and high schools to students who are qualified for free or reduced lunches and are recommended by school counselors. In 2018, weekend backpacks were sent to 7 schools. 117 x backpacks included 6 meals and 2 snacks = 702 meals/week x 33 weeks = 23,166 meals per school year.

**Supplemental Food Program** – Food Pantry provides families, qualified through the Hanover Free Clinic, Community Services Board and Feedmore referrals, with a store where they can monthly choose from nutritious food purchased from FeedMore, other stores, and donations. In 2018 - Approximately 600 people were served, about 1,000 pounds per event. We had 15 pantry nights in 2018.

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

- **VOLUNTEERS:**

- Weekend Backpacks - Once a week on Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 pm packing is done at the Supply Room Company on Route 1, Ashland.
  - *Eligibility, pick-up, and delivery is arranged through the individual schools.*
  - *Purchasing and picking up from FeedMore and sorting is usually done the third Monday or Tuesday mornings.*
- Food Pantry – The third Tuesday of every month. Weekly purchasing, stocking, packing, and dispersing food. June, July and August there are 2 pantries per month.
  - *Purchasing and picking up from FeedMore and sorting is usually done the third Monday or Tuesday mornings.*

- **DONATIONS:** Monetary donations are the most efficient; nutritious food can be purchased from FeedMore for **19 cents on the dollar**.
  - Make checks out to St. James the Less, and indicate Food Ministry on the memo line.

Yancey Jones / Jenn Inge 405-1488 [3inges@gmail.com](mailto:3inges@gmail.com)

#### **Youth Outreach:**

The Senior High Youth Group at St. James the Less builds relationships, motivation and skills for 'walking the talk' as a Christian in fellowship with the Ashland community and the larger world. As part of our yearly activities, we engage in a number of the church outreach activities such as helping with CARITAS, and leading the SJTL Hanover ARC Christmas Gift program. We also seek to assist in restoring and building communities through Tri-Cities Work Camp and a service trip each summer.

**SJTL Sunday School Pop-Tops:** To provide the children in Sunday School an appropriate, manageable, and meaningful outreach project.

**SJTL Mothers Morning Out:** Our group formed in November of 2016 as a way for moms and children to: Support each other as we raise our children, give to the community, explore interests (yoga, essential oils, organization practices). Allow our children to learn and play with one another in a safe and fun environment

*Outreach Chair, Dani Stockwell (798.6548)*

#### **FREE CLINIC (ST. JAMES THE LESS)**

Every Wednesday evening, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., our church basement is converted to a healthcare facility providing medical, dental and nursing care as well as and medications to low-income, uninsured residents of Hanover County. The mission of the clinic "**to offer a faith-based healing ministry to our qualified Hanover neighbors by providing free medical and dental health care with compassion, dignity and respect,**" provides a unique outreach

for parishioners and members of the community to contribute toward the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of others in our community.

Healthcare providers see patients for medical visits, instruction, and referrals for diagnostic tests and specialty care. Nurses assist and support providers in care, education and advocacy. Dentists provide dental evaluations, restorations, extractions, and dentures. Dental Hygienists provide preventative and therapeutic services and dental education. We also have a collaborative relationship with Randolph Macon College through which students gain valuable medical and dental experience by scribing for the healthcare providers and assisting nurses, dentists and administrative staff.

With dedication, enthusiasm, and grace, volunteers work throughout the week to assure continuity of care. Administrative volunteers follow-up with patients, help determine eligibility, obtain access to medicines, schedule appointments for care, coordinate schedules, arrange for transportation, advocate, coordinate meals for volunteers, screen patients for eligibility, keep records, submit grants and reports, and maintain and clean the clinic. We are truly blessed. Our hope is that, in this time and in this "sacred center," we have honored the call of God.

*-Susan Hubbard, Executive Director (798-7927)*

*- St. James the Less Free Clinic (798-8890)*

### **PASTORAL CARE AT ST. JAMES THE LESS**

Over the last few years as St. James the Less has been working through leadership changes, the pastoral-care team has aimed to ensure that no parishioner in need goes unseen. Our care for and connections to one another are hallmarks of our Christian life together at SJTL. With Fr. Rock now shepherding our flock, many of the pastoral-care team's intentional initiatives have subsided. We do continue to offer meals to parishioners in need of extra help during critical times through the Meal Train. Volunteers sign up online to receive communications when there is need. Ginny Meyer administers this. And our deacon, Harrison Higgins, is meeting a critical need by convening a weekly grief group. If you have other ideas for addressing pastoral needs of the parish — or a particular need, yourself — kindly contact Rock+ or Harrison+.

*Stephanie Werner (798.3915)*

### **Parish Nurse Program**

The Parish Nurse is a special practice and professional model of health ministry handled by a parishioner who is a professional Nurse. It is a part of the Pastoral Care Program. She helps in the health needs of our parish by offering advice, counseling, referrals and education.

*Bobbie Street (798.7030)*

### **CHENERY COMMITTEE**

The Chenery committee was established to fund charities, outreach programs and parishioners' participation in retreats, conferences, camps and classes designed to promote Christian spiritual growth. The Chenery fund's income derives from annual interest earned from the Christopher T. Chenery Fund, established in 1973

Nine committee members serve a three-year term and are selected by the vestry and Rector. Each year, three members rotate off and three new members are appointed.

Approved Chenery committee applications are presented to the vestry for their vote on final funding.

There are two forms used to apply for Chenery funds. The Chenery Fund Scholarship application is used for camps, retreats, and mission trip requests. All these requests must be church

related. The Chenery Fund Grant application is used for organizations and community funding requests. The forms are available in the "Chenery slot" in the hallway close to the parish office.

*Doris Hassell, 2018 Chair ([dandh53@verizon.net](mailto:dandh53@verizon.net))*

*Beth Markwood, 2019 Chair ([emarkwood@comcast.net](mailto:emarkwood@comcast.net))*

### **SHRINE MONT RETREAT COMMITTEE**

This group plans the annual parish intergenerational fall weekend retreat at Shrine Mont in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Planning living quarters, programming, and spiritual opportunities done from late spring through September.

*Leadership currently vacant*

### **SOCIAL GROUPS OF SJTL**

#### **"ROMEOS OF SJTL"**

The group of "Retired Old Men Eating Out" (or, as has also been suggested, "Retired Outstanding Men Eating Optimally") This social group is open to anyone who wishes to join in. Lunches are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 11:30. The first is normally held at Randolph-Macon Cafeteria, but can vary with advance notice. The second gathering is held at Trakside Restaurant. Emails are sent out in advance. To get on the list, email [mpfield@comcast.net](mailto:mpfield@comcast.net).

*George Field (752.6384)*

#### **Red Hats**

Based on the national group of the same name, the SJTL Red Hats gather once or twice a month for lunch at a variety of nearby locations. All women of a certain age are welcome, and invited to participate. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

#### **Adventurers**

"The Adventurers" is compiled primarily of members of the parish who are over 55 years of age, but younger people and people outside the parish have come and are also very welcome. We meet the fourth Friday of most months at 4PM at the homes of the people who take part in the group. It is primarily a group for socializing with all of us bringing a dish and what we want to drink...not unlike an afternoon Supper Club. The attendance ranges in number from 18 to 24 people.

*Katherine Tinker (798.5978) or [katht1@verizon.net](mailto:katht1@verizon.net) (lower case, one word)*