

St. James Episcopal Church



St. James Episcopal Church *of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

330 South Bellevue Avenue
Langhorne, PA 19047
215.757.3766 StJamesLanghorne.org

Parish Profile 2021



Invitation to our New Rector

We invite our new Rector to partner and serve with us as we strive to meet our mission of being a Jesus centered community. We hope to welcome a greater number of young families with children while maintaining pastoral care to our parish family. We are a loving, inclusive parish who encourage persons from all aspects and experiences of life to worship with us. We hope for a Rector who is willing to provide leadership for the education of children, youth and adults. The Pandemic has made us aware of the many challenges to our community. We have discovered some solutions offered

by technology. We plan to partner with our new Rector to bring the message of Jesus Christ to anyone through live-streaming our worship services and events from St. James Church.

Parishioners and anyone beyond our doors wishing

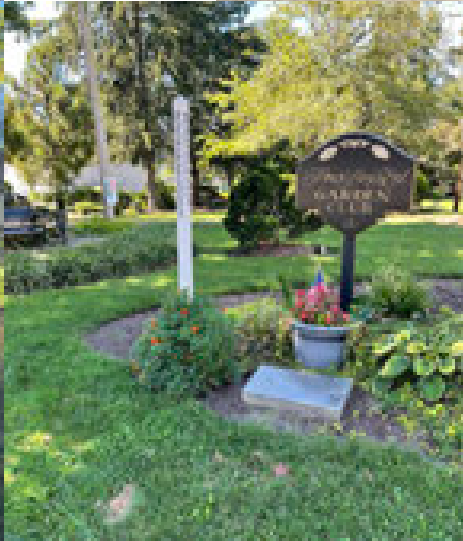


to join us will have access to worship services and events. Our beloved part-time Music Director died suddenly prior to the pandemic. We are fortunate to have our Interim Music Director and look forward to working with our new rector to hire our next part-time Music Director. The parishioners of St. James Church are committed to maintaining our fiscal strength as it enables us to do God's Work in the world.



Overview of St. James

St. James Episcopal Church is located in picturesque, historic Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Nestled within Bucks County,



many types of residential neighborhoods, shopping and restaurants. St. James is part of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, under the leadership of Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez. St. James is also a member of the Bucks County Deanery

and the Langhorne Ministerium.

St James presently has about 250 baptized members, with 131 adults and 19 youth members attending services.

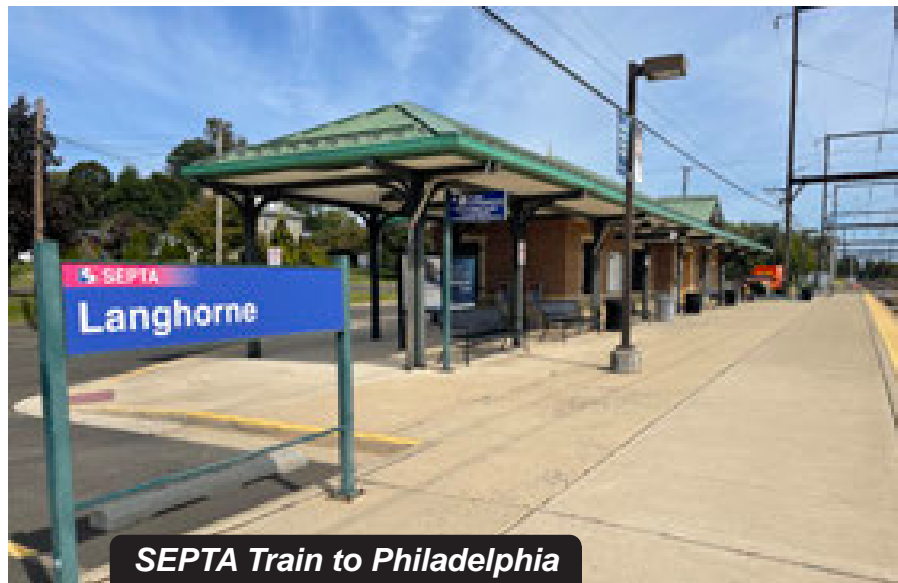
Until the pandemic,

our average weekly Saturday/Sunday attendance was 78. It is a vibrant, active group of parishioners who enthusiastically support our programs.



Langhorne borough is a small town with less than 2000 residents, but is a quick drive or train ride to downtown Philadelphia. Founded in 1680, Langhorne is steeped in Revolutionary War history and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. It remains a vibrant town surrounded by parks,





SEPTA Train to Philadelphia



Tawanka Elementary School



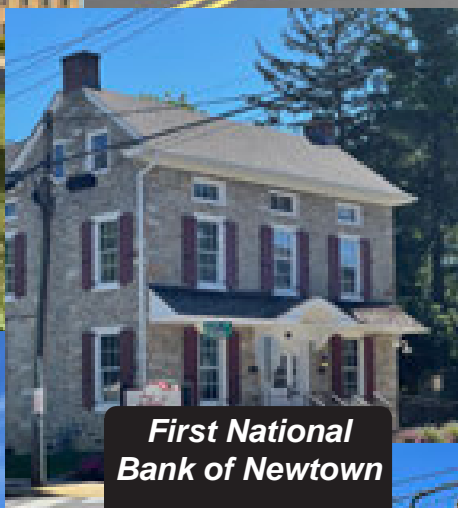
Core Creek County Park



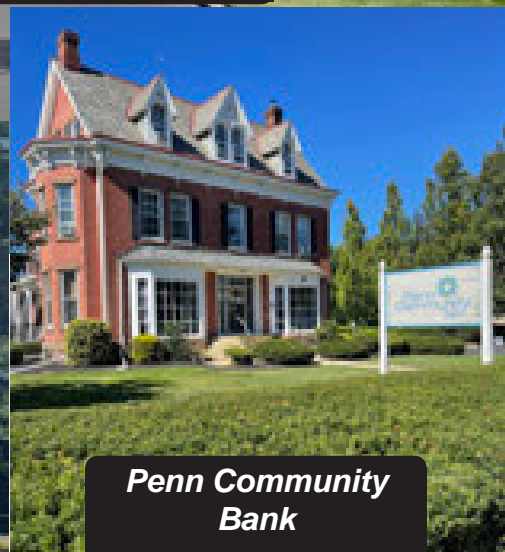
St. Mary Medical Center



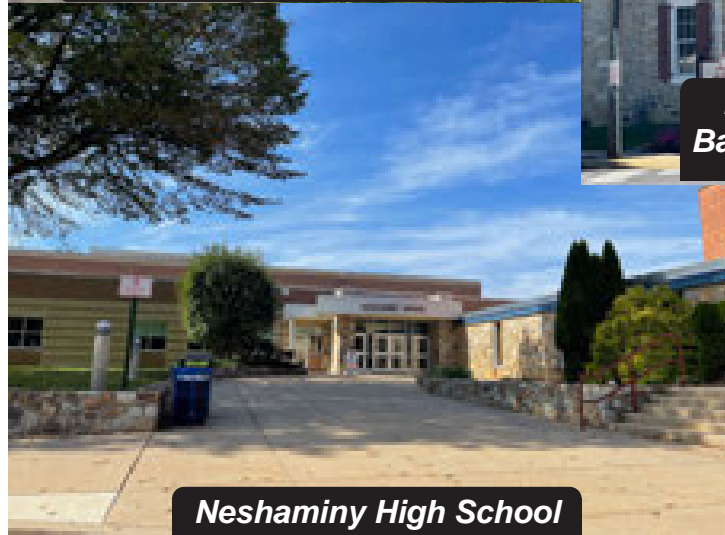
Maple Point Middle School



***First National
Bank of Newtown***



***Penn Community
Bank***



Neshaminy High School



Langhorne Peace Center

St. James Mission Statement

Saint James is a welcoming community of people from diverse backgrounds, traditions, and orientations.

We are called by God to become a growing community of hope centered in Jesus Christ for the benefit of the wider communities in which we live. We seek to bring the power of that hope to those around us by spiritual renewal, service to youth and children, outreach, stewardship education, and congregational growth.

Vision

We envision a future of a deepened spiritual life that inspires and encourages the Parishioners of St. James Church of all ages to continue to welcome the stranger, see and seek opportunities both within and beyond our community. We seek a God-Centered future where we can embrace the challenges before us, responding from a place of abundance, not scarcity.



"I have been inspired by the spirit of our parish during the pandemic."

"We are a strong, resilient parish family."

"I love the way new ideas are welcomed and even encouraged. It helps to keep the church current and modern while maintaining past practices."

Parish Survey 8/21



Worship Services

Our worship services inspire us to live our faith. They bring us closer to God the Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide.

Worship at St. James gives us an important weekly opportunity to leave the context of our lives and gather at Christ's Table, to be renewed and prepared to be dismissed back into the world to do God's work.

St. James offers three diverse worship styles:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. — Contemporary Service with music — guitar and/or piano

Sunday 8:00 a.m. — Traditional Rite I Service without music

Sunday 10:15 a.m. — Traditional Rite II Service with music — organ and/or piano. The choir sings at holidays and special services throughout the year.

Throughout the year, and especially during Lent and Holy Week, special services with music and prayers are offered.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, Greeters and Acolytes



Lay readers assist during the worship services by saying the Prayers for the People and reading scripture selections. Greeters are present in the Narthex before and after services, distributing worship leaflets and children's activity bags, identifying newcomers, and assisting with the needs

of the parishioners attending the worship service. Greeters also assist by gathering information on newcomers for future contact by "Visitors". Acolytes, which can be youth or adults are present for the 10:15 Sunday Worship. The congregation appreciates the young women and men participating in this ministry welcoming the gifts they bring to the church. This ministry is open to all young people who have completed the fourth grade and are interested in serving.

Eucharistic Ministers, prior to the pandemic, assisted the priest at the altar and by serving wine. Recent changes during the pandemic have limited the role of the Eucharistic Minister.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild lovingly prepares the Lord's table for all worship services plus holidays as well as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. They keep our brass and silver shining and our linens pressed. They are also in charge of decorating the Altar with vestments



and flowers every Sunday and special arrangements which include everything from palms to Christmas swags

throughout our liturgical year. At the conclusion of the last Sunday Worship Service the Altar flowers are collected and delivered in arrangements to parish members for special circumstances.

Pandemic Worship

During the pandemic we evolved several ways to worship and to stay together as a parish family. Initially, we sent out instructions on Morning Prayer to everyone via email and mail to those without computers. Our rector recorded a weekly sermon that was shown on YouTube. When we could, we met outside, bringing our chairs and maintaining social distance behind our Education Building. Scheduled Zoom meetings allowed us to stay in contact for special events and circumstances.

When our interim rector joined us in November 2020, he began regular Zoom services on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings at 9:00 am followed by Adult Forum. In late Spring, as Covid cases declined we were able to share the Eucharist on the church lawn on Saturdays at 5:00 pm along with Sunday Zoom Morning Prayer services. We returned to indoor Sunday services with masking in late July. September saw the return to our regular schedule of three services and we are currently able to livestream and post our 10:15 service.



What I value of St. James?

“Being welcomed and included from day one. It felt real.”

“Sharing the Peace during worship”

Parish Survey 8/21



Education & Christian Formation

Elementary Church School Program

St. James Sunday School has two classes – one for children ages 5-7 and one for children ages 8-11. During the school year, the children learn about the Bible and religious holidays through many interactive, hands on activities, and community service projects. At Easter and Christmas the children perform a pageant as part of our holiday celebration. In addition to the children's homily at the 10:15 service, Sunday School is a place for them to hear stories of faith and meet friends in a Christian setting. The children are included in many of the Parish's programs and are an important part of the St. James family.



Youth Group

The youth group at St. James is a dedicated group of young men and women ages 12 and up from the parish. They have been involved in programs and activities to help them live the Word through service and fellowship. The young people and the



sponsors have been involved in occasional social activities as well as fund-raising activities to help those

in need in our community. The group has attended diocesan events and the Night Watch program at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. There is an ongoing focus on keeping the young people involved in the life of the parish by serving as acolytes, lay reading, serving on committees, and participating in parish-wide intergenerational programs.

Adult Forum

Our Adult Forum meets at 9:00 a.m. between the 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. church services on Sunday mornings in the church library for one hour. The forum is led by the rector. The group selects the topics and explores them using scripture, books, podcasts and other spiritual and inspirational materials.

Annual Retreat to Holy Cross

For more than 40 years, a sizeable number of parishioners have participated in silent weekend retreats at the Holy Cross Monastery in



West Park, New York. This experience, as well as our relationship with the Order of the Holy Cross, has been a source of strength and renewal for many of our present and past members throughout the years. Several members of St. James have been Associates of the Holy Cross Order.

Langhorne Ministerium

St. James, as part of the Langhorne Ministerium participates in the annual Good Friday Community Cross Walk and the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship.

St. James Preschool

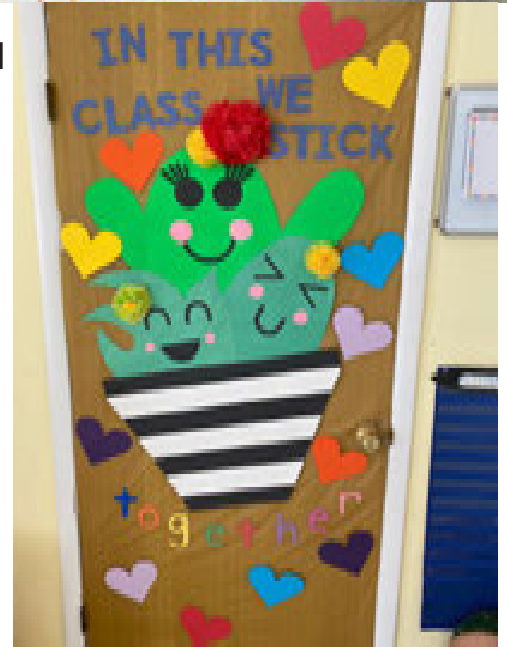


Our preschool is located on the grounds of St. James. The school was founded in 1978 by members of our parish and although it continues to grow beyond the bounds of families who are part of the parish, the



church vestry still maintains a liaison role for the school. St. James Preschool admits students of any race, color, religion, and national or ethnic origin. The school accepts children and parents without regard to religious faith, affiliation, or belief. The school hopes to help all students grow in their personal relationship with the Lord. The school's

knowledge and experience is reflected in their educational programs taught by highly qualified, Pennsylvania certified teachers. There are four classrooms, an expansive fenced in playground, and a great hall. St. James Preschool is a parent cooperative preschool. As a parent cooperative school, there



is a unique opportunity for parents to become involved in the educational program. Each classroom has both a lead teacher and an aide present during class time. Parent volunteers are asked to participate in a variety of ways throughout the school year. Our preschool is offering four classes this school year – two 3-year-old classes and two pre-kindergarten classes.

EfM has been an active program at St. James for over 25 years and is so much more than a bible study group. Through study, prayer, and reflection, our EfM group moved toward a new understanding of God in our lives. We enjoy a lot of conversation and laughter during our time together.



The Education for Ministry (EfM) Program is a four-year study and group reflection process for the formation of Christian ministry through the development of knowledge, attitude, and skill as Christians. Published texts and essays provide the primary knowledge content in the study of Christian tradition.

This program currently welcomes

participants from St. James and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Yardley, PA. During the pandemic Zoom allowed us to continue to meet safely.



Outreach – Work for God’s Purpose

The St James Community seeks to honor God’s Vision in the world.

Food

St. James responds to food scarcity locally with weekly parishioner donations to the ERA Food Pantry delivered by parishioners following weekend worship. Additionally, we arrange and fund deliveries of fresh vegetables and fruits to the Food Pantry. St. James’ parishioners also participate with the St Mark’s Soup Kitchen in Philadelphia. For many years our multigenerational group has organized a 6:00 am departure for visits 8 times a year to serve the homeless community with individual parishioners visiting independently as able. St. James’ participation in the Crop Walk is a well-supported annual tradition for the entire parish.

Housing

St. James actively supports our on-campus apartment house for affordable housing.

Clothing

A relationship with Old First Reformed Church of Philadelphia provides St. James with the opportunity to donate new and clean, gently used clothing to their Men’s Shelter. Clothing for more professional needs are dry-cleaned and delivered nearby to *The Wardrobe*, also in Philadelphia.

Health

St. James continues to support our local AA Organization with a caring environment

in the community. Meetings take place at 6 am 6 days a week and 2 evenings a week. Dedicated members of the group assisted parish volunteers in painting the Great Hall Meeting space.

Youth Education

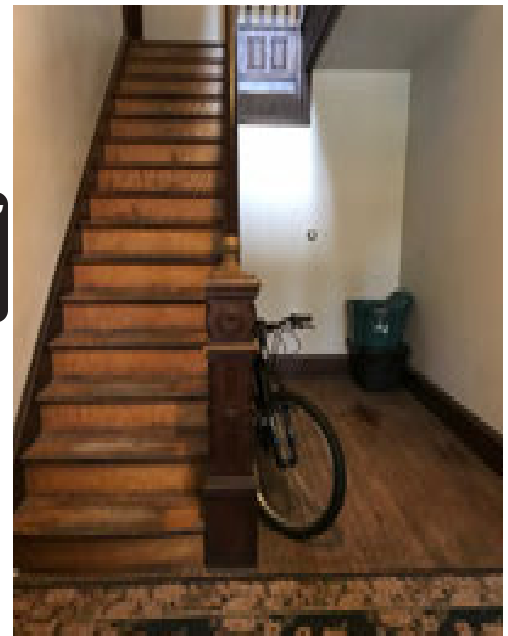
Vacation Bible School has, in the past, provided St. James the chance to welcome our younger neighbors to a caring, fun and active week of Christian education. Our ambitious and creative VBS teachers are often assisted by youth group volunteers making it a joyful experience for all. We hope to recapture this vital ministry post pandemic.

Joy

Toys for Tots is always a special event but this year, during the Pandemic, it was especially appreciated. A devoted family from St. James’ parish traditionally takes the lead in this ministry and the effect of this year’s drive-by toy collection was a much needed salve for the soul.

“St James is a vibrant part of the community and beyond” -- Parish Survey 8/21

***“St. James House”
5 affordable
apartments***





CROP Walk 2017



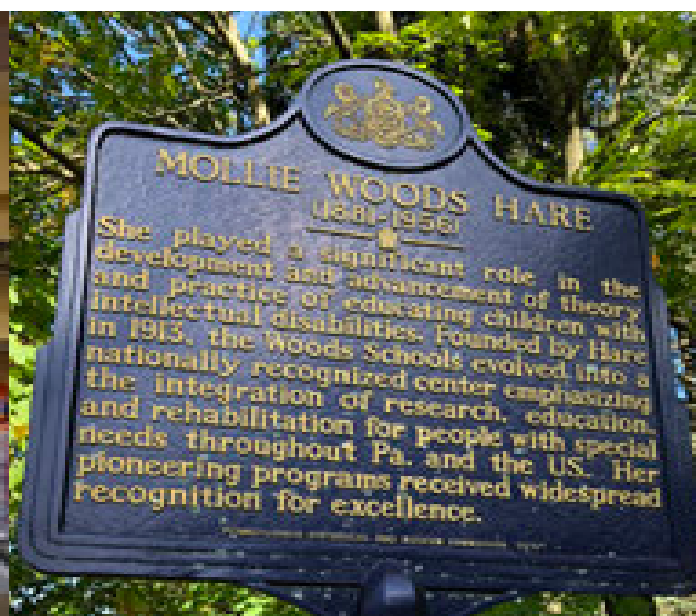
CROP Walk 2019



Vacation Bible School



St. Mark's Soup Kitchen, Philadelphia



Woods School

Fellowship

Our life as a congregation is enriched by our strong relationships with our siblings in faith. We offer many opportunities for fellowship including: a talent show, game nights, the Christmas craft fair, participating in the annual CROP walk, bowling nights, pancake breakfasts, and square dancing events. One of our most important opportunities for fellowship is Coffee Hour which is offered every week after the 10:15 service. This is an opportunity for parishioners to congregate until the children's education program ends, share a cup of coffee, grab a snack, chat with others, and meet new friends.

Book Club

The lay-led St. James book club meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. September through June. Before the pandemic we met in the library of the church; in the spring of 2020 we moved to Zoom. Discussion is underway about continuing via Zoom in the foreseeable future.

Spiritual Companions

Spiritual Companions meets the 2nd Monday of the month, currently via Zoom, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. We spend time with the Gospel reading for the day before gathering to share our reflections on how the Gospel speaks to each of us and its impact in our lives. The group is facilitated by a long-time lay EfM mentor. Before the pandemic we gathered in the Narthex to read the day's Gospel and then spent an hour reflecting on it before sharing our reflections. We ended this time together with bag lunches and spent time in fellowship.



Jeopardy Game Night



Chili Cookoff



Coffee Time

Wreath Making

"The fellowship of St James excites me."

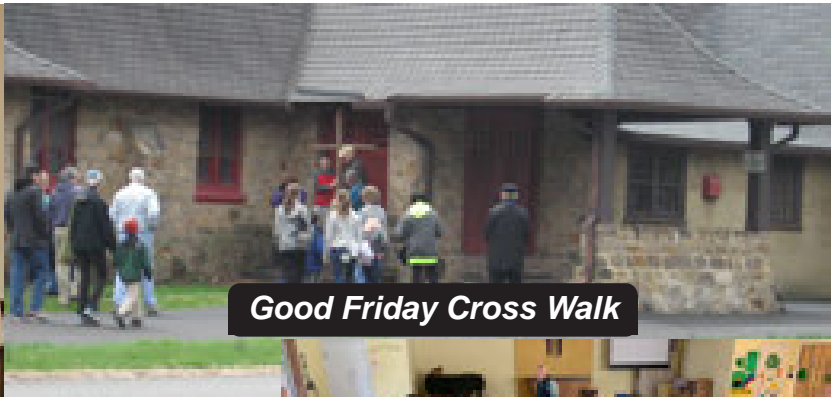
"St James is very receptive to people of different backgrounds."

"We have always been a welcoming parish."

--Parish Survey 8/21



Christmas Pageant



Good Friday Cross Walk



Elle's 100th Birthday



Talent Show



Irish Fling



Pancake Breakfast



Game Night Kids vs. Adults



Pancake Breakfast



Talent Show



Parish Picnic

Stewardship

Stewardship is the common thread that binds our parish. St. James Parish is committed to caring for those individuals within our parish and our wider community. We attempt to practice responsible stewardship as it relates to the physical environment and as it relates to those gifts provided by our parish family.



The Apartment House, built early in the 20th century, houses 5 families in 5 low income apartment units. There is a 6th space on the first floor used by various church groups throughout the year. Upkeep of this building is an ongoing challenge.

Property

The Church, built in 1906, has a capacity of 120 persons with a spacious



Narthex, kitchenette and separate Library Conference room seating approximately 18 – 20 persons. There are also 2 bathrooms in the facility, one being handicapped accessible. There is a ramp leading into the narthex from the parking lot and a ramp which allows entry from the narthex into the church.

The Education Building built in 1971 consists of a Great Hall, 4 preschool classrooms, preschool office, Rector's office, Administrative Assistants' office, full kitchen and male and female bathrooms.



History and Overview

St James Church can trace its roots to 1834 when Bristol College was a manual labor school. The president and some professors were Episcopal priests. The college opened



a boarding school named St. James Hall. During the Civil War it was used as a military school and hospital. In the 1870s, St. James Chapel moved to the Langhorne area, starting as a mission. The mission



became part of the diocese in 1894 and the present stone church was built in 1906 with a parish hall added in 1945. The church has a capacity of 120 persons, with a spacious narthex, kitchenette, and separate library and conference room with seating for 18-20. There are 2 bathrooms in the facility, one with handicapped access. There is a ramp leading into the narthex from the parking lot,

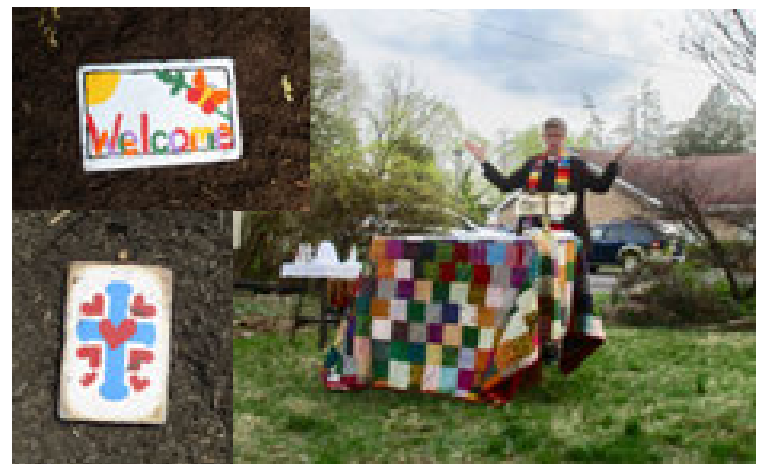
and a ramp from the narthex allowing entry into the sanctuary.

The education building was completed in 1971. It consists of a Great Hall, 4 preschool classrooms, preschool office, Rector's office,



administrative assistant's office, a full kitchen and male and female bathrooms. Our education building is central to our education and fellowship programs and provides a home for many outreach services. St. James has had a community preschool for over 40 years and has provided meeting space for decades to A.A./N.A. Programs.

In our most recent history, our congregation has been weathering the pandemic with resiliency and grace, with Zoom services,



outdoor services and eucharist, virtual pageants, and innovative children and youth activities. Equipment and tech upgrades have been purchased to record our in-church services for viewing by those who cannot attend.

We have had the guidance and support of wonderful rectors through our history. Rectors who have served for the past 50 years include:

- *The Rev. Paul Briggs, Present Interim Rector*
- *The Rev. Barbara Kelley 2008-2020 Rector (retired)*
- *The Rev. John Martin 2007- 2008 Interim Rector*
- *The Rev. Donna Dambrot 2006-2007 Rector*
- *The Rev. Barbara Kelley 2004-2006 Interim Rector*
- *The Rev. Lloyd Winter 1974-2004 Rector (retired)*

In addition to our priest, we have a part time administrative assistant and an interim music director.



Story of Eva Kozari

My connection with St. James Church goes back to the spring of 1957. I entered the United States of America as a 5-year-old immigrant from Hungary. My father fought in the Resistance against the Russian occupation. When the Resistance was crushed in November of 1956 my family fled to Austria. From a refugee camp in Austria we travelled to the sea port Bremerhaven, Germany. In Bremerhaven we boarded a U.S. Navy ship, and on February 14, 1957 we arrived in America and were



processed through Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. All families needed a sponsor to move on to the next phase. St. James was on the list of sponsors and my family was matched with them, God's destiny for me. The people of St. James gave us everything because we brought nothing with us. They found us a place to live in Langhorne, furnished it with all we needed, even a doll's crib with a doll for me. They helped my father find a job. I was introduced to Sunday school and eventually the church choir. Families invited us to their homes after the Christmas Eve service, they gave me a party for my 1st Holy Communion, and one family drove us to Philadelphia to witness the ceremony when we became U.S. citizens. I am incredibly grateful to God and to the people of St. James who became our mentors as we adjusted to the many doors that



Finance

St. James is blessed to be debt free and we strive to maintain a balanced budget each year. Parishioner pledges are the foundation of our income, which is supplemented by approximately \$40,000 from the rental of the 5 low income apartments in the converted Victorian home on the church grounds. \$12,000 is realized from occupancy fees received from our on site pre-school as well as the AA groups which use our great hall 6 days each week. Fund raising efforts yield an additional \$5,000 each year.

During the pandemic our church was able to maintain stability with our finances as pledge payments remained relatively unchanged. The preschool did endure some financial concerns during the pandemic due to a significant drop in enrollment. The pre-school applied for an initial PPP loan in 2020. This initial PPP loan was forgiven. A second PPP loan in the spring of 2021 was obtained and paperwork is in the process of being filed for this loan to be forgiven.

Our endowment funds have been conservatively managed by a parishioner who has grown them to over \$500,000 with interest from these accounts adding another \$2,000 to our budget. We are beginning to look for a professional to manage these funds moving forward. St. James Church contributes over \$18,000 annually to support our bishop and the work of the diocese and has successfully increased this by 2-3% yearly.

Finance - Income Statement

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	
INCOME						
Contributions	170758	171525	182607	191127	159745	
Investment Income	2200	2900	1783	2536	2572	
Other Income	48013	61628	58970	54366	49658	
Special Gifts	0	10000	10000	10000	0	
TOTAL INCOME	220971	246053	253360	258029	211975	
EXPENSES						
Compensation	138902	144378	143223	142378	144072	
Property	48276	48752	75333	51396	62611	
Office Operations	8241	12924	13344	11636	10863	
Programs/Outrch	20590	21439	23361	24271	22199	
TOTAL EXPENSES	216009	227493	255261	229681	239745	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	4962	18560	(1901)	28348	(27770)	
PRE-SCHOOL						
INCOME						
Tuition	122552	150133	171459	195322	171895	
Special Events	0	0	16103	9200	0	
EXPENSES						
Operating Expense	123152	146152	180635	197739	173744	
Transfer to church	6000	3000	6000	6600	3500	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(6600)	981	927	183	(5349)	

* Received a \$ 21,300 diocesan grant used for apartment house window replacement.

We hope this profile reflects St James as a loving, welcoming, resilient parish with members who support the mission and programs of our church with their talents, pledges and devoted work. During this time of discernment, we have been able to maintain our buildings, finances, commitment to our faith, while caring for the greater community despite the pandemic. We look forward to calling a new rector to join us, and lead us to greater spiritual, congregational and community growth.

Interested applicants should send cover letter, resume and OTM portfolio to:
Canon Arlette Benoit Joseph at abenoitjoseph@diopa.org