

ST. JAMES' NEWSLETTER

May - June 2015

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The Easter Season

The seven-week celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus is the most joyous time of the Christian year. Our Paschal candle burns throughout the season to remind us of the promise of new and abundant life given to us by the risen Christ. We continue to sing Easter hymns, even as we observe other themes, such as Christ the Good Shepherd, Rogation, and the Ascension. The season extends until the Day of Pentecost (May 24). These are some of the important observances in Easter Season and beyond:

Rogation Sunday (May 10) is our traditional planting day. We invite you to bring plants and seeds for our sundial garden. Since it is also Mother's Day, we will have a surprise for mothers as well.

Ascension Sunday (May 17) is the Spring Ingathering for United Thank Offering. Blue boxes are available in the Parish Hall. This offering, begun by the women of the church over 100 years ago, is one of the oldest continuous missionary offering in our church. The Fall Ingathering will be on All Saints.

Pentecost (May 24) is the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, empowering them to carry on the mission of their Lord with confidence. It is the only major feast of the church currently called by its Biblical name (although for centuries it was popularly known as "Whitsunday"). The name "Pentecost" is from the Greek for "fifty" since it was the fiftieth day from the start of Passover. Its Hebrew name was "Shavu'oth" (the Feast of Weeks). The rector hopes to recruit readers to the share the lessons from Acts in other languages, as the disciples were led to do 2000 years ago. Members of the congregation are invited to wear red in honor of the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday (May 31) is the major feast which honors God himself, in the various ways God is made known to us. Since it is also a fifth Sunday, it is also an ideal time for the parish picnic. Let's bring outdoor games and make it a real celebration, like we did last year.

Yard Sale

St. James' will be hosting and supporting the Ruritans' Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 2, from 7:30 a.m. until noon. Proceeds will benefit the Relay for Life. Donations will be accepted anytime during the preceding week and we would appreciate it if they are priced by the donor.

♦ IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ♦

St. James' Parish Office: 493-8285
St. James' Parish Kitchen: 493-9087
Rev. Alan Hooker: 1-804-580-2309
Ferdie Fax Chandler – Senior Warden: 493-8182
Ray McWilliams – Junior Warden: 493-7510

Vacation Bible School

There will be an organizing meeting for Vacation Bible School on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. This year's program is "Rain Forest Adventure" in which students will learn about the life of the South American rain forests as well as Biblical stories. The tentative dates are July 6-10. Let us know if this presents a conflict for your family.

Food Pantry

The new Montross Community Food Pantry has been authorized by the Vestry and successfully launched. We have been blessed with the support of the Montross Ministerial Association (see below) as well as our own vestry and parishioners. Here are the upcoming dates for the pantry: May 8 – unloading and preparing orders (3-5:00 p.m), May 9 – distribution (9-12:00 p.m); June 12 – preparation (3-5:00 p.m), June 13 – distribution (9-11:00 p.m). Donations of food and volunteer help are always needed.

Ministerial Association

The clergy of the Montross area have a very collegial spirit in their commitment to work, pray and give for the spread of God's kingdom. Together we offer assistance to persons in need (through a special fund), offer joint worship opportunities, and support joint ministries such as the Food Pantry. We meet together monthly to support and encourage one another. With the departure of the Rev. Shayne Estes for a new assignment beginning in July, your rector has been chosen as the new president of the Association. We wish Shayne well in his future. He will be greatly missed.

Bible Study

We invite your participation in either or both of the opportunities we are currently offering to study the Holy Scriptures:

- † Wednesday at 11:00 AM, when we are studying II Maccabees
- † Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM, when we examine the Lectionary

Vestry

The vestry meeting in May will be held on May 14 to avoid a conflict with *The Fantasticks*, in which the rector is appearing. The June meeting will be held on June 4. Both meetings are at 7:30 PM.

Congratulations

To **Christina Beckham**, who has recently won several awards and commendations for her art work.
To **Katie Lewis**, who is about to graduate from University of Mary Washington.
Our best wishes to you both.

Rector's Vacation

Alan and Cathy will be taking vacation June 5-11 and 22-30. Both will be "busman's holidays" since your rector will be preaching at St. Peter's, Cape May Point, NJ and at St. Paul's, Put-in-bay, Ohio. The Rev. Dr. Christopher Agnew will celebrate, the Holy Eucharist on June 7 and 28, and Dave Cooke will officiate at Morning Prayer on the 28th.

Our Thanks

To Rob & Kim Zimmerman for the gift of a freezer for the Food Pantry;
To Kim, Cathy and Bonnie and all who helped prepare the Seder meal;
To all of our Food Pantry volunteers and contributors;
To our Meals on Wheels volunteers;
To all who contributed to Episcopal Relief and Development through their Lenten "Hope Chests".

May Birthdays

*Alan Hooker
Dave Bentson
Ben Morris
Hoyt Perry
Kim Zimmerman
Bill Jenkins*

May Anniversaries

Sarah & Robert Nevin

June Birthdays

*Marilyn Harvey
Natalie Chandler
Joseph Barrese
Mark Gooch*

June Anniversaries

*Alan & Cathy Hooker
Betsey & Bob Fountain
Kim & Rob Zimmerman
Lucylin & Bill Jenkins
Karen & John Lewis
Val & Ray McWilliams*

