



From the Rector

JOSH HOOVER

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In her book, *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass discusses the deep human emotion of gratitude on the many levels that we often perceive it. She talks about transactional responses in which we are expected to give a token back to someone who has given us a gift to express how thankful we are. She talks about emotional responses in which we are able to experience gratitude as delight, joy, or surprise. But most importantly, she talks about how we can expand our sense of gratitude, turning it from a once-in-a-while reaction to a moment into an experience that is part of our daily life. In one example she describes doctors asking patients to keep a gratitude journal because they are proven to help people be both healthier and happier.

Awareness of the importance of gratitude, while only recently studied, is not at all a new phenomenon. The Jesuit order ends their day with a reflection on the day whose second step is to look back on what has happened with gratitude. Only after this thankful remembrance are they invited to think about their present state and what tomorrow might bring.

By far the highest form of gratitude comes when we are made aware of the pure, abundant, overflowing, amazing grace of God. Our creator loves us so completely and fills our lives and world with so many good things that sometimes we can do nothing but stand in awe as feelings of gratitude overwhelm us. Other times, of course, we walk through our lives unaware or at least unappreciative of God's presence. Practicing gratitude means paying attention to how deeply we have been blessed and how fully and undeservedly we are loved.

Each year as we head into the stewardship season, it is tempting to ask how much it costs to run the church; how much do we need to do the ministry that we believe in. But this year, we are asking you, instead, to ask yourself, what am I grateful for? How have you been blessed by God? Both in the promise of eternal life and in the abundant goodness of life in the here and now, God's goodness is overwhelming. How have you experienced this?



1 in 9 people in the world are facing hunger issues and even more are not food secure. On a Day to Give Back, Sophie and Hannah Gable (pictured) and 70 other volunteers from St. James partnered with Rise Against Hunger to prepare 10,000 meals and help end hunger by 2030. #2030isPossible See p. 5.

In the month of October, we will ask you to spend a part of each of three weeks exploring a question related to how you feel grateful. For three consecutive Sundays starting on October 14, a fellow parishioner will get the ball rolling on that week's question with their own reflections. Only after the three weeks are over, and the Big Event (mark your calendar for November 2), will we ask you to consider how you want to respond to God with thanks for all the gratitude you feel.

Feeling gratitude is good for us, and so is giving to others in order to help them feel grateful as well. I am grateful for you and your participation in the life of St. James, grateful for the many gifts of both present and past parishioners that have made and continue to build this place and community, and most of all grateful for a God who is so palpably present in our worship, laughter, and service to the world. I hope, whether through the work of our stewardship committee or in so many other different ways, you are able to feel God's grace and be overwhelmed by gratitude this fall. Because as A.A. Milne once wrote, "Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

Faithfully,

—Josh



The Reverend Joshua A. Hoover,
Rector

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The Spirit is a monthly newsletter published for members and friends of St. James. **We are always looking for photographs of church events!** The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month for the following month's issue. Please email articles and/or photos to: churchoffice@stjamesbirmingham.org or call the Parish Administrator.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sundays 8 and 10 a.m.

Wednesdays 7 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE
For pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. Josh Hoover at 810.620.5402

SUNDAYS
8 a.m. Eucharist (Church)
10 a.m. Eucharist (Church)
10:10 a.m. Church School (Pre-K through 5th grades)

TUESDAYS
7 p.m. Toastmasters (2nd, 4th)
7:30 p.m. AA

WEDNESDAYS
7 a.m. Eucharist (Chapel)
7:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
7:30 p.m. MA

THURSDAYS
12 p.m. AA

SATURDAYS
9 a.m. Knitting (Lounge)

Two-Minute Theology

Standing at the Offertory

The offertory is an important part of the Eucharistic service every Sunday, for both practical and spiritual reasons. Practically speaking it is the moment when we bring forward the bread and wine and then use it to set the table for communion. And also, of course when we collect money that, along with the pledges we receive in other ways, help support the work that St. James does during the week. These are the obvious things that are happening that can be viewed from the pew.

Less obvious is the spiritual aspect of offering. Having heard the word of God and heard it preached, we are led to several responses. We react by affirming our faith using the creed, praying, and giving some of who we are back to God. Having learned some of how God loves us, we seek to respond by loving God in return. Our bulletin puts it this way:

“The Offertory is a time when we offer back to God some of what God gives to us. God gives us wheat and grapes and, through our labor, we turn them into bread and wine. We offer them to God, who blesses this food, and it is given back to us – more than bread and wine – a heavenly food that feeds us spiritually with Christ himself. God gives us bodies and minds, and we use these in our life and labor to earn our daily bread. When we give a portion of our income back to God, God blesses it, and returns it to us as services provided by the church, in outreach to those in need, and in lives changed by God's spirit.”

In the past, to mark this moment of gratitude in the service, the congregation has stood as the gifts were brought forward. We also often sing a presentation hymn – the doxology or some other song of thanksgiving – because it is our thankfulness that leads to us giving. The problem with how this has been done is that we tend to ignore the bringing of wine and bread forward as a part of the gifts and only stand for the money. I hope to be clear here by saying that there is nothing wrong with money, it is an important tool that we use to accomplish that which we feel God has called us to do. However, standing for money only and not the bread and wine may lead to sending the wrong message about valuing everything that we place on the altar. And waiting to bring all the gifts forward together is impractical because it would leave no time to actually prepare the table for the meal.

Therefore, we implemented a new practice at the Offertory this summer. Instead of standing while the money is brought forward, we will stay seated throughout the choir anthem or hymn. Once money is collected it will be brought forward by ushers and placed on the altar by acolytes. Then, after the anthem, the presider will move to the altar and raise up all of the gifts in thanksgiving as we stand and sing together as song of praise and thanksgiving. We believe that this is the closest balance we can come to of both the practicality and theology of the Offertory. As always, if you have questions or concerns we encourage you to talk to Fr. Josh.

Kroger Update

Do you shop at Kroger? You can sign up to participate in their Community Rewards Program. Every time you shop, a small percentage of your purchases will be donated to St. James! Just this past quarter, we received \$113.80 through the participation of 43 households during the period from May through July. Thank you!

There has been an update to the program, resulting in a new organization number for St. James: DH117. Current participants are not affected by this change. If you are not currently enrolled but would like to sign up, visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> or ask at the store.

Music Notes

GLENN BURDETTE

music@stjamesbirmingham.org

Our musical groups at St. James are off and singing (and ringing, sometimes running)! From Sunday, September 9, the St. James Choir proved that it had not forgotten its stuff over the summer break, and our intrepid St. James Choristers will do the same on September 30, when the groups sing together, and then by themselves in October. The St. James Ringers will make their season debut on October 14.

The church, like the often mentioned theatrical hills, have been alive with the sound of music this month. We have begun hosting rehearsals for the Madrigal Chorus on Tuesday evenings, and have heard the young violin, viola and piano students of Janice LaMarre in a recital on September 22. Similarly, we will hear the talented voice students of Kate Rosen in November. On Sunday, November 11, the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings will perform a 3:00 p.m. concert at St. James featuring Mozart's Gran Partita.

But before that, on Sunday, November 4, our choir will join with the choirs of Holy Name Church, Birmingham, and St. Mary of the Hills, Rochester Hills, and members of the Michigan Sinfonietta orchestra, to present John Rutter's Requiem, at Holy Name at 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 9, our own choir will present a concert of Advent and Christmas music, including Daniel Pinkham's rhythmic Christmas Cantata, with brass quintet and organ, also at 4:00 p.m.

Please join us for these programs, or, better yet, help us present them by joining one of our groups!

Grace and peace,

—Glenn

Adult Forum

Exploring the Heart of Christianity

Sundays at 9:05 a.m. in the Lounge

Through the month of October, the Adult Forum will continue to read Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*. In it, Borg discusses what it is about God, the Bible and living a Christian life are most central to our faith. He gives us permission to let go of trappings that are no longer useful, while leaving room for those who still find meaning in them. We are discussing a chapter a week, but while reading the book is helpful the real value is in the conversation we have with one another. Topics this month are:

October 7 – The Bible, the heart of tradition (chapter 3)

October 14 – God, the heart of reality (chapter 4)

October 21 – Jesus, the heart of God (chapter 5)

October 28 – Born Again, a new heart (chapter 6)

The Community House turns 95

This year the Community House of Birmingham is celebrating its 95th birthday. Members of St. James worked to create this place for gathering the entire community regardless of their faith or politics. In 1923 the Community House was born. Now, they are looking for ways to continue to improve their services to the community that has served them for so long. Through the rest of the year you are encouraged to donate \$95 to help them celebrate and continue the good work they do. You can do so online here: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=commhouse&id=24>

Questions can be addressed to the Community House at (248) 594-6417 or to Kathy Ninneman who is proud to be a living bridge that continues the relationship between our church and the place we helped create.

Vestry Update

At their September meeting the vestry:

- Received reports from Stewardship, Formation, and Outreach
- Received an update from the Property committee about the ongoing building study process
- Began the formation of the 2019 Nominating Committee
- Approved a deal for early payoff of the Elwood loan

For more detail, the approved minutes from vestry meetings are regularly posted, along with financial statements, in Centennial Hall.

Financial Update

This is a summary of our financials through August, 2018. More details are available on the blue and green sheets in Centennial Hall. Please feel free to talk to vestry, Peggy John or Fr. Josh if you have any questions.

| | Actual | Budgeted | Difference |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| August Income | \$ 17,326 | \$ 20,503 | \$ -3,178 |
| YTD Income | \$ 355,543 | \$ 350,427 | \$ 5,116 |
| YTD Expenses | \$ 489,106 | \$ 487,105 | \$ 2,001 |
| YTD Total vs Budget | | | \$ 3,115 |

Transfer Amount from Parish Fund to date: \$138,192

Budgeted Transfer for Year: \$ 174,360

5% of Parish Fund (goal number for transfers): \$155,017

From the Associate for Formation and Outreach

CHRIS GANNON

chris@stjamesbirmingham.org

G.A.P. (God's Awesome People)

The first and third Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 7 – Our usual GAP gathering time and place. After helping with the Oktoberfest we'll gather for discussion and activities around "The Monsters in My Closet." Stay tuned for more info.

Sunday, October 21 – Our usual GAP gathering time and place. We'll be preparing the College Care Packages – making cookies, preparing gifts for and decorating packages, and writing notes!

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Make sure you bring your pet back to the church at 3:00 p.m. (please note time change from previous blessings) on Sunday, October 7th for a special blessing on the front steps of the church. All of God's creatures are welcome! Pets, please bring your humans too! This is a perfect event to invite your friends and neighbors to bring their animals as well.

Halloween Candy!

Collected on Sunday, November 4

Are you worried about having too much leftover Halloween candy in the house tempting you to indulge? No worries! Bring your leftovers to church and it will be put in the College Care packages going out in the mail the next day.

Let Pastor Chris Know

Is your child on a sports team? Are they involved in theater, dance, or band? If so, please consider letting Pastor Chris know their game or event schedule. She would love to try to get to see them 'outside of the church'. It's truly one of the favorite parts of her ministry!

Teachers Needed

The kids are signed up. The rooms are set. The resources have been collected. But something's missing.

YOU! You're missing from our Church School Team!

Each week the youth (age 4 to grade 5) leave near the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service to head to the Chapel. Once there, Pastor Chris welcomes them and shares the Bible lesson for the day. They then head off to classrooms with their teachers. That's where **YOU** come in!

We've got two classes so far this year, Pre K to 1st grade and 2nd to 5th grade, and only three teachers. We'd love six to eight teachers so folks can rotate Sundays. **We need at least three more teachers.**

Is it **YOU**? Pray on it. Write down the questions or concerns you might have. And then come and talk with Pastor Chris. Or talk to some of the other teachers.

No teaching experience necessary! Don't worry, you won't need to have all the answers to their potential questions. You need to care about our youth and be willing to let them ask their questions! You don't need all the answers. Just a willingness to find the answers together. This is an opportunity to let our youth know they are cared for and to help them learn important faith lessons. Just because you haven't done it before is not an excuse!

Is it **YOU**? Are you still unsure? Contact Chris Gannon. Ask yourself if God is calling **YOU** to work with our young people!

College Student Addresses

Several times during the school year, our youth at St. James send out Care Packages to our young adults in college and grad school – we want to let them know that we are thinking about them and praying for them as they navigate their way through the semester. We always include some homemade cookies, cards and notes of encouragement. Our first Care Package will be sent out on Monday, November 5.

To do that we need the addresses of our students. Is your child or grandchild, niece or nephew in need of some love and support from the church? Send us their snail mail address and we'll make sure that they feel the love! You can email Pastor Chris or drop a note in the offering plate.

Bible Study

Wednesdays 12 noon

Do you find the idea of attending a Bible Study intimidating? Are you concerned that you don't know as much as you think you should and afraid to admit it? Does the mere thought of trying to find where a passage in the Bible is start your knees knocking? Then every Wednesday at noon is the Bible Study for you. We often use page numbers to help find text, we ask more questions than we answer, we laugh and share, and tease Fr. Josh for what he did or didn't use from our discussion in his sermon. You should feel free to bring a bag lunch, or not. Bring your Bible or not (we are a church, we have plenty). But most importantly to bring yourself, to engage the text and one another, to ask your questions, to be in relationship with others and find ways to grow.

10,000 Meals in Under Two Hours!

On Saturday, September 22, a whopping 72 volunteers of all ages from St. James and the wider community participated in A Day to Give Back. This year, we worked with Rise Against Hunger to package 10,000 meals that Rise Against Hunger will send around the world where they are most needed, such as to children who might not be able to go to school without this support, or to areas affected by natural disaster.

Each meal packet contains dehydrated soy protein, rice, vegetables, and a vitamin packet – enough to feed six people. The sealed packets can be stored for up to two years. Rise Against Hunger seeks to help accomplish the United Nations sustainability goal of eliminating worldwide hunger by 2030.

Our volunteers worked so well together that we finished early! Thank you to all volunteers who helped set up, prepare breakfast, prep bags and boxes full of good food, and clean up. “Many hands make light work,” indeed.

School Supplies Update

Thanks to your generosity, students at Greenfield Union Elementary School in Detroit and Caniff Liberty Academy in Hamtramck will have more of the tools they need to learn and play!

This year, we collected:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1051 pencils | 45 folders |
| 11 pencil cases | 4 binders |
| 2 pencil sharpeners | 68 erasers |
| 197 glue sticks | 64 pens |
| 4 bottles of glue | 7 rulers |
| 39 pairs of scissors | 7 note pads |
| 410 colored pencils | 1784 crayons |
| 124 notebooks | 305 markers |
| 15 boxes of tissue | 4 backpacks |
| and 2 packages of looseleaf paper | |

On behalf of the students and their parents and teachers, thank you!

A day
to give
back

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
food • community • sustainability





Melissa Wojciechowski—248.644.4071
preschool@stjamesbirmingham.org

I am excited to announce that in September, we welcomed 69 families with a combined 88 children into the preschool! Our Tot program has expanded and we now offer extended day care until 5:30pm as a convenience to working parents. We have 16 staff members who are looking forward to an exciting school year. The children have adjusted well and are falling into the routine of each program.

Early in September, our theme was “All About Me.” Each class talked about what makes each child special and boosting their self-esteem. We then changed the theme later in the month so students could be less focused on themselves and more focused on the new friends they have made.

We enjoyed several special activities this month! On Monday, Sept. 24, the children and their families took a field trip to Westview Orchards to pick apples and enjoy cider and donuts. During fire safety week in early October, firefighters will bring their fire truck and teach the children about the dangers of fire and how to stay safe.

From Sunday, September 30 to Thursday, October 14, you will be able to order Little Caesars Pizza

Kits to support the preschool. The pizza and dessert kits are available in a wide variety and come frozen. They make for a quick and easy dinner on those busy school nights. There will also be cookie dough that you can keep on hand for last-minute guests that might stop by over the upcoming holidays. All the money raised will be used to purchase items off of the teachers’ “Wish Lists.”

You can order online at <https://www.pizzakit.com> using the code 356191 to identify our preschool. More information is available at the Check-In Table in Centennial Hall.

Mark Rosenthal will bring his “Animal Magic” to our annual Halloween Party on October 31 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. He has been entertaining and educating audiences on exotic animals for 38 years. He’s even been voted Nickelodeon’s Michigan Entertainer of the Year! The children and teachers alike are excited to see what animals he brings to St. James...we’ve been promised a sloth! After the program, the children will trick-or-treat around the building while teachers and church staff pass out goodies.



CROP Walk

Fifteen walkers from St. James participated in the CROP Hunger Walk this year, an event to raise money to fight hunger. While the monies are still coming in (at time of publication), our hope is to raise \$1000 for the organization.

In addition to our walkers, two volunteers staffed a water station here at St. James, helping walkers stay hydrated along the way.

Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors!



Summer Memories...

Miss summer? Here are some photos from Mass on the Grass all the way back in August! Remember how warm it was? Remember the good food, and the "Milk" song, and how much fun everyone had? Alongside this issue's photos from the CROP Walk and A Day to Give Back, these images are a great reminder of what a loving, dedicated community worships, serves, learns, and laughs together here at St. James!



Mark your Calendar

Preschool Fundraiser

Begins Sunday, September 30

Stop by the Check-In Table at Coffee Hour to order some tasty treats from Little Caesar's! You might be surprised at the variety of items available. See p. 6 for more information.

Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 7 after the 10:00 a.m. service

Special sausages made just for St. James have already been ordered, and the red cabbage, applesauce and potato pancakes are being stocked. We are looking to another wonderful Oktoberfest celebration as a way to kick-off the Stewardship season. Join us at church on October 7 and bring a stomach ready to delight in some of Germany's best. Many thanks to grill master David Stout and our queen of the kitchen, Mary Kale, and all their helpers for making us yet another fantastic meal.

G.A.P. (God's Awesome People)

Sunday, October 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7, 3:00 p.m.

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all," Cecil Frances Alexander wrote in his poem that is now a beloved hymn. The comedians at Monty Python decided to have a little fun and put it this way, "All things dull and ugly, all creatures short and squat, all thing rude and nasty, the Lord God made the lot." Whether your four-footed, webbed, winged, finned or slithering companion is beautiful and beloved or ugly and rude, we hope you will bring them to us for a celebration of all animals. We would love to meet any of your pets that call your house

their home. This is a short, chaotic service that celebrates and blesses the life so wonderfully given by God and we hope you can be a part of it.

Preschool Fundraiser Ends

Thursday, October 18

Last day to get your Little Caesar's Pizza Kit order in!

G.A.P. (God's Awesome People)

Sunday, October 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Preschool Fundraiser Pick-Up

Tuesday, October 23

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit orders will be available for pick-up from 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. through the Chester Street doors.

Diocesan Convention

Friday evening, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, Suburban Collection Show-place, Novi.

The Big Event is coming

Saturday, November 2

The Stewardship Committee received so much great feedback from those who attended last year, and heard from so many others who said they wished they had come, that we are doing it again... but better this time. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served in the Lounge followed by entertainment and then a wonderful sit down dinner. Child care (and an alternative meal if needed) will be provided. And thanks to an anonymous donor, all of this is free to you. Look for more details and the chance to sign-up and let us know you are coming soon. We look forward to seeing you for a wonderful night to celebrate our St. James community.

Intercessions

IMMEDIATE PRAYER LIST: Kiera, Ella, David K., Penny, Shirley, David, Pat Smith, Claire, Kathy, Jim, Nev Curtis, Lucy, Althea, Mary, Tom Woodside, Lisa, John, Steve, Natalie, John Slocum, Joe Walls, Horace Conley, Kirsteen, Alonna.

SUSTAINING PRAYER LIST: Steve, Michelle Wells, Richard Wells, Jeannine, Ted, Trevor Sullivan, Engel Metaj, Vince Cardinale, Bertha Pastor, Dot, Dave, Truman, Logan Moralez, Merle Goatley, Elsie Righter, the Jensen family, James Olson and family, Pat Semivan, Eula Fyke, James, George Stannis, John and Sue Womack, Anne, George, Joe Hardig, Barbara Livy, Elsie Overy, Jon Wickens, Meghan Baxter, Tommy, Rachel Heeren, Susan, the Joiner family, Pete.

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Bret Anstett, Andrew and Michelle Crowe, Brian Hertenstein, Geoffrey Hertenstein, Theodore Moran, Jeff Schultz, Hugo Stange.

IN MEMORIAM: Mary Ray.



Strange bird sightings... Have you been seeing these birds around town? They're available for hire! Send them to the home of a friend and help send our youth on pilgrimage! There's still time to flock someone. Find out how at the Check-In table in Centennial Hall during Coffee Hour.



St. James Vestry

2016-2019

Marty Bones

Lauri Christianson

John Everett

Daniel Righter

2017-2020

Ralph Castelli

Katie Haenggi

Pam Landgraf

Emily Johnson

2018-2021

Bill Booth

Julee Parker

Bill Ward

Michele Wogaman

Our Mission

INVITE you to the table

ILLUMINATE our spiritual journey

SHARE Christ's love with the world