

From the Rector

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

josh@stjamesbirmingham.org

This month we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. During that celebration, we will hear, again, the amazing story from Acts of the coming of the Holy Spirit. We will hear about the fire and wind and the speaking in many different languages. We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church and wish ourselves, the church, a Happy Birthday. As we anticipate that celebration, I want to invite you to reflect on what it means for St. James today – almost 2000 years later.

Preparing the apostles for Pentecost, Jesus at his Ascension said, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Despite the gift of the Holy Spirit and the way the apostles felt compelled to leave the upper room and start telling people about Jesus, it turned out that there were growing pains, doubts, and fears at every step. Acts is full of mistakes and missteps as they tried to live out this commandment.

That might sound familiar. We do a lot of really good work in the church, caring for one another, creating inspirational and beautiful worship and meaningful formation opportunities. And we do a really good job of loving the world through outreach, using our gifts, our time, and our money to support people in great need. But like the apostles, when it comes to sharing the faith that is in us, when it comes to telling people about church or about Jesus, we get nervous or scared.

Jesus makes it clear at the end of the gospels, however, that our job as the church is to spread the good news, as it says in our Baptismal Covenant, ‘in word and deed.’ I am so pleased that our Vestry is embracing this covenant promise in a variety of ways. Members of the Vestry have agreed to interview both church members and those outside the congregation in order to really listen to the cares and concerns of those around us and build relationship and community.

The Vestry has also created a subcommittee of members who are planning ways to interact with community events that happen near our building. Our first effort will be to have a card making station outside of the church during Art Birmingham on Mother’s Day. That is also the first opportunity you have to help us create relationships with our neighbors. You can read more about this on page 3. We will be inviting you to participate in more events like this one in the future, and if you have ideas for what St. James might do, please talk to Shar Wickens, Pam Grier, or Michele Wogaman. You can also read on page 4 about a support we are starting to help new moms.

Finally, there is one last way that you can help spread God’s love, by telling the good news of what is happening at St. James. And no, it doesn’t involve knocking on doors or making cold calls or asking people if they are saved. One of our members invited some friends to dinner recently. They were new friends, and in the midst of conversation, learning about each other, and doing the dance we all do as we decide if we want to become deeper friends with someone, the question came up. “You go to St. James, right? What is it like?” There was no brow beating, no threats or coercion. As part of a natural conversation, they were asked about St. James and had the opportunity to share what they love about us.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. in-person and 10:00 a.m. in-person and streamed on Facebook and our Website

Weeknights Compline 7:50 p.m. on Zoom

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

PASTORAL CARE

For pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. Josh Hoover at 810-620-5402

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:

parishadmin@stjamesbirmingham.org

This is how we spread the word of God – by being open about our faith, and then letting it come up naturally. We aren't trying to force or guilt anyone. We are sharing, when we have the opportunity, that having a relationship with God, that being a part of a worshiping community, that these things have made a difference in our lives.

As we work to do more ministry that is visible in our community, that builds relationships, and shows people that we are making a difference, we are going to have more opportunities to share about who we are. This is scary, and we might sometimes feel awkward. But it is good news for us, and a great opportunity to invite others to share the love and support, the compassion and growth that we have found at St. James.

Faithfully, Fr. Josh

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School

COME

TO THE TABLE:

FEEDING THE WORLD WITH LOVE



Join us to hear stories about food - with crafts, games and science that teach us about love and community!

AGES 4-11

ACTIVITIES

- Dinner at 5 PM
- Program 5:30 - 7:30
- Stories
- Games
- Art and Crafts
- Science and FUN!

WHEN/WHERE

JULY 15-19

ALL SAINTS
171 WEST PIKE
PONTIAC

CALL: 248-334-3827



MORE INFO: director@boundtogetherpontiac.org
boundtogetherpontiac.org

All are welcome!

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816>

During the month of May, our Bible Study will continue our study of the book of Acts. We will learn about the challenges and triumphs of the early church, drawing parallels to our church today, and discussing what we can learn from them. All are welcome to join us as we share our thoughts, opinions, and our lives with one another.

Adult Forum

9:05 a.m. Sundays in the Lounge

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

Adult Forum will end for the program year on Sunday, May 5. We will complete our discussion of the Book of Psalms and how they teach us to pray and create deeper relationship with God.

We would love to get your help as we think about what we might discuss or learn about in the year to come. A survey will be distributed on May 5 and available throughout the month. If you can't find one at coffee hour, please see Fr. Josh.

Forward Day by Days

Day by Day's for May/June/July are available in the Narthex. If you would like a copy mailed to you please contact Michelle in the Church office at 248-644-0820.

Let's Be a Part of Birmingham—Sign up for Art Birmingham

PAM GRIER

At the April 21st Vestry meeting, a new committee was created by Shar Wickens with members Michele Wogaman and Pam Grier. This committee will be planning activities to coincide with City of Birmingham activities in Shain Park. We are so excited to increase our profile in our community! This will give us a chance to share with the Birmingham community how wonderful St. James is and gives us an opportunity to meet folks in the area.

The first event is Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the *Art Birmingham* event. Our vision is to set up on Martin Street in our covered parking area (sometimes known as a porte cochere). Shar is providing all the necessary supplies to make AMAZING cards for Mom, or that special person in their life. There is no charge for this and it is available for adults and children alike. We just want to let Birmingham know we are alive and well! We are hoping to have parishioners participate in two-hour shifts to make this available to the Art attendees. Would you be willing to have some fun for a couple of hours on that Saturday and/or Sunday and let people know how welcoming a group of people we are? If so, there is a sign-up genius available at <https://stjames.rocks/art24>.

For more information, contact Shar at 248-763-5929, Michele at 248-875-5768, or Pam at 248-219-7464.

Pentecost Readers Needed

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

If you can read in a language other than English, we can use your help on May 19th for the Pentecost lesson. To celebrate the speaking and understanding in tongues that occurred that day, we like to read in multiple languages. Contact Fr. Josh to volunteer or with any questions.

Support Group for New Moms

AMANDA REISTER

Thanks to a generous grant from the Diocese of Michigan, St. James is starting a support group for new moms. The group will meet Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the lounge beginning on May 31.

Modern motherhood is tough, and so often it feels like we're doing it alone. People need the space to breathe, to finish that sentence, to know they're not the only one that feels like this. We see a future where the mental health struggles of mothers postpartum are recognized, validated, and treated with seriousness and gentleness. Amanda Reister, a board-certified counselor, (LLC) as well as being a member here at St. James will facilitate the group.

If you know a new mom who could use support or just a morning out, please share the news. The group is free to attend, and women can sign up here: <https://www.amandareistercounseling.com/new-moms-support-group>

Babies are welcome, but no judgement if mom's need a few minutes to themselves.

Summer Service Schedule Begins June 2

One Service at 9:00 a.m. June 2—September 1

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

Beginning on June 2, we will be switching to our summer service schedule and have a single celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. This change for the summer alleviates some of the work for our many volunteers and also allows the entire St. James community to worship together. I hope you will join us when you are in town this summer – Sundays are always better when we are together.

Father's Day Photo Exhibit

SUSAN KELLY

St James is celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, June 16 with an exhibit featuring a favorite photo of your father, stepdad, foster father, grandfather or anyone else who has been like a father to you.

All you have to do is provide us with a duplicate, original, or scanned copy of a photo of the man you want honored from any time during his life – from infant to adult. We'll have a card available for you to note a few facts, such as approximate date of photo, where taken and any interesting information you would like to share.

We'll be accepting photos for the display at a table staffed by Shar Wickens on Sunday June 1 and Sunday, June 8. Photos will be displayed on Sunday, June 15 and through the end of the month when they'll be available for a safe return to you.

Many of our parishioners will recall the May 2016 Mother's Day photo event "buzz" and the sense of community this event inspired. Whether you select something recent or find an historic photo from a dusty photo album, let's start searching! Kids, you are welcome to join in the fun with your favorite Dad photo.

Sign Up to Host Coffee Hour!

Coffee Hour after both of our services is that chance to connect with our fellow parishioners and guests. We are in need of volunteers to sign up to host coffee hour!

A few notes: Coffee and tea are provided by the church; you will only need to provide the treats, you should plan for 20 following the service after the 8:00 a.m. service, and approximately 45-50 at the 10:00 a.m. service. Beginning on June 2 we move to one service at 9:00 a.m.

Please sign up on the sheet in Centennial Hall at <https://stjames.rocks/coffee23>

Graduates

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating this season? Whether it is from High School, College, or Graduate School, we want to celebrate with you and congratulate them on their accomplishment. Please let us know by contacting Michelle Metry (parishadmin@stjamesbirmingham.org) and she'll send you a form to let us know some of the details about your graduate. The deadline to return the form is June 15.

Send in Your Photos

New Email address: photos@stjamesbirmingham.org

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

Whether attending a special event, like our book fair this Thursday, or our booth at Birmingham, or taking a Sunday morning photo at worship or people making blankets during coffee hour... we need your photos. To update our website (horizontal photos are best) or for the Spirit or flyers, we want to show the world what St. James is about. Please send any pictures you have of worship, fellowship, service, or any of the other parts of our congregational life to photos@stjamesbirmingham.org

Thank you.

New AED

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

Our new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) has arrived and is now in the cubby outside the pulpit door of the church. Thank you to Fred Austin and Sarah May for doing the research, applying for help from the Diocese, and fundraising. And thank you to everyone who gave, or bought something in support. Look for new training in its use in the fall.

Vestry Update

Minutes from Vestry meetings are posted in Centennial Hall after they are approved each month. For a more recent update, we include highlights here in the Spirit. At their April meeting the Vestry of St. James:

- Chose to support the Indie Book Fair and Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Appointed a sub-committee to plan interactions with community events
 - Received updates from Finance, Parish Fund, Communications, and Property
 - Approved new sink for nursery pending approval from inspector
 - Debriefed Holy Week and Easter
 - Heard initial plans to start a support group for new moms
-

Sign Up to Sponsor the Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Candle or Livestreaming

Are you looking for a wonderful way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Why not sponsor the flowers, the sanctuary candle, and/or the livestream? Several dates are available and it is easy to sign up. There is sign up sheet in Centennial Hall, or you can go online at <https://stjames.rocks/sponsor>, or you can call Michelle in the office.

The cost is: Altar Flowers \$75
Sanctuary Lamp \$50
Livestreaming \$100
Or ALL THREE for \$200

Senior Warden's Report

PAM GRIER, SENIOR WARDEN

Coming to Church May Require a Hard Hat!

The initial portion of our beloved church building was erected over 100 years ago, with numerous additions and renovations over time. We have noticed that in recent years some areas are not aging as gracefully as others. That leads me to share with you some major issues that our building is currently experiencing.

Centennial Hall has had water issues in the northwest corner (near the men's restroom) for some time now. It comes and goes and has been very difficult to determine where the water is seeping in from. We have had companies take a look and do some work, but nothing to date has solved the problem. As we progress with our attempt to solve this mystery, you may see some sandbags and other preventive measures being taken to keep the water abated. This issue impacts the Preschool, as Centennial Hall is their exercise area, and impacts other events that the room is used for, such as funeral and wedding receptions, and our wonderful coffee hour. Unfortunately, at this point the concern is that the remedy might be very expensive.

Next, we know that there is a great deal of tuckpointing/masonry work that needs to be completed to keep our building secure from the elements. Our bid to complete this work has been broken down into smaller groupings so that we can have this done over several years, but even these separate projects are very expensive.

We have been informed that our elevator has aged to the point that parts for repairs will not be available in the near future. Also, there are going to be some code changes that will require us to do some updating as well. We have been informed that it would be less expensive to bring it up to code and update the system itself at the same time. We are obtaining quotes from some additional companies to determine what will be best for St. James. Stay tuned!

Those folks that use the Maple Road entrance have most likely noticed that the brick steps are not level and are difficult to walk on in places. We are looking into some different options to correct this. We hope to complete this project in 2024.

Our Preschool learned during an inspection that either a Dutch door to a bathroom or a new sink in the classroom needs to be added to be in compliance with state regulations. Plans are currently being drawn up and we expect this project to be completed over the summer.

There are a variety of other issues that are smaller in scope, but also on our radar. We will approach each project as we have the funds to complete them. Meanwhile, you may just see some construction activity in and around the church periodically. Keep that hard hat handy!

Preschool Notes from Miss Melissa

MELISSA WOJCIECHOWSKI

preschool@stjamesbirmingham.org

<https://stjames-preschool.org/>

May is going to be a fun month for the preschoolers! We start the month by showing our teachers how much we appreciate all they do during Teacher Appreciation Week that takes place from May 6-10. Each day will have a different theme and treat for our teachers. I am looking forward to spoiling these well deserving ladies!

On May 14, we are going to be hosting a family fun night. We will be at the pavilion at Normandy Oaks in Royal Oak at 5:30 p.m. The preschool is providing dinner for our families. Staff will also be on hand to help serve dinner and interact with the children and their families. We are looking forward to it!

The preschool will be closed on May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. We will never forget those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Enjoy the sunshine and new life that spring brings with it!

Music Notes

RICHARD NEWMAN

music@stjamesbirmingham.org

The Choir Season Is Almost Over

The program year is gradually winding down, but the music ministry at St. James is still very active. The Handbell Choir will ring the prelude on May 12 and host coffee hour. The choir's last Sunday at the 10 am service will be on Trinity Sunday, May 26. The anthem will be *Psalm 122: I was glad when they said unto me* by late Grand Rapids composer Leo Sowerby. His contribution to the music of the Episcopal Church in the early 20th century was paramount. Sowerby was baptized at St. Mark's in Grand Rapids and worked at St. James Cathedral, Chicago and Washington National Cathedral. His jazzy and glistening harmonies for organ and choir are very much his own and quite distinct from his colleagues. The triumphant opening of the first few verses—*I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord*, contrasts greatly with the soothing words that come later, *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem*. We certainly pray for the peace of Jerusalem here on earth, and we, as citizens, look forward to the bliss of the heavenly Jerusalem that is to come. What a fitting end to a fine season of music making!

As we enter the summer season, please consider becoming a part of the music ministry. You may be interested in choir, handbells, or playing an instrument during our morning worship. Do you have a child that is of reading age that would love to sing or play an instrument? I know there are some out there and it would be great to have music from our youth again! All interested please contact me by email or after the organ postlude on Sundays. Music planning for the fall season is June and July. Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing? I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Finally, I appreciate all of our musicians' hard work, dedication, and practice outside of rehearsals to make music of exceptional quality on a weekly basis. Music is indeed the handmaid to the liturgy and our humble offering to Almighty God.

A Pop of Indie



Our Preschool hosted a literary night and book fair at St. James on April 25.

Outreach Opportunities

PEANUT BUTTER FOR PONTIAC

THE REV. JOSH HOOVER

Every Thursday a member or members come into church to make peanut butter sandwiches. We donate these sandwiches to the Community Breakfast at All Saint's in Pontiac. You can help by taking the time to make sandwiches (it takes an individual about 45 minutes).

To sign up, go to this link: <https://stjames.rocks/pbj>

You can also help by donating peanut butter or jelly. Simply drop off any donations in Centennial Hall on Sunday.

BOUND TOGETHER

MICHELE WOGAMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bound Together

30th Anniversary Open House

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH, 2024

EVERYONE WELCOME

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- 1:1 Tutoring, Grades 1-8
- FunDay Mondays
- Dinner
- Transportation

All Saints Episcopal Church
171 West Pike Street
2:00 - 6:30 PM

For more information, please visit our website:
[BOUNDTOGETHERPONTIAC.ORG](https://www.boundtogetherpontiac.org)

Join us for tours, treats and thank you's!

Intercessions

IMMEDIATE PRAYER LIST

Penny; Anne; Tom; Michael; Quenten; Bev; Jane Barnes; Michael Curry; Anita; Mary; Rich; Daniel; Cynthia; Sue M.; Linda Baldwin; Patti Fraley; Julian; Andy; Claire; Joe; Betsy Kent.

SUSTAINING PRAYER LIST

Michelle; Richard; Noah; Maryanna; Natalie; Chuck & Mickie; Corinne; Evi; Pete; Mary; Marty; Sally; Don; Bill; Rachel; Dave; Sue; Mary Jo; Jean; Dave; Rob; Jacob; Bob.

IN MEMORIAM

Lynne Clippert

St. James Vestry

2022-2025

Michelle Boice
Pam Grier, *Senior Warden*
Nancy Schutte
Michele Wogaman

2023-2026

Fred Austin
Jane Barnes
Andrea Everett
Amanda Reister

2024-2027

Sophie Gable
Angie Righter, *Junior Warden*
Kathy Stange
Shar Wickens

Our Mission

INVITE you to the table
ILLUMINATE our spiritual journey
SHARE Christ's love with the world