

the st. james



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints of James,

Recently I read an interview by Krista Tippett with poet and writer Ocean Vuong, and he said, "Commenting on language, we often tell our students, 'The future is in your hands.' But I think the future is actually in your mouth." Throughout this conversation, Ocean queries expressions like "you're killing it," when what we mean is something else. Why use a phrase of death to praise what's growing? What we name something, can shape the way we treat it, he says. He brings classrooms, communities, societies, and international politics and policy into consideration by how — and by whom — they're labeled and subsequently treated. This is the work of language, but it's also the work of public life, says Ms. Tippett.

What comes out of our mouth is an occasion for grace or an occasion for harm depending on what we say and how we say it. One of my spiritual guides, the Rev. Richard Rohr, OSF, wrote this about words and holy listening, which I think are companions of communication. "Can we take responsibility for the fact that we push people to polarized positions when we do not stand in the compassionate middle? I think of how often, during my talks, someone raises a hand and says, "I disagree with what you just said." Often, they did not hear or understand what I said, and they don't have the humility to ask, in a non-accusatory way: "Did I hear you correctly in saying . . . ?" or "What do you mean when you say . . . ?" Of course, sometimes I am wrong, but such a mentality does not encourage dialogue or mutuality. Unfortunately, my response also often suffers because of the negative

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Volume 21 Number 8



Sunday Schedule

8 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 AM Coffee Hour
5:30 PM South Sudanese
Worship

St. James Episcopal Church
4515 Delray Street
Roanoke, VA 24012
Phone: 540-366-4157
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www.stjamesroanoke.org

St. James Episcopal Church

Clergy:

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver,
Adjunct Pastoral Associate

Staff:

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary
Mr. Andrew Cochran, Choir Director & Organist
Mrs. Donna Parks & Mr. Marshall Hudson, Sextons

The Connection:

Send copy to: stjames@rev.net

Internet Web Page:

www.stjamesroanoke.org
Gerald Gordon, Web Master
ggordonva@hotmail.com

The St. James Vestry:

Senior Warden, Chris Criscione
Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz
† Clerk, Renée Toth
† Treasurer, Kevin Shepherd
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron
† Rec. Treasurer, Danny Fainter
Tim Buchholtz
Chris Criscione
Gail Fields
Carla Spencer
Gina Wellford
Phil Wheeler
Dottie Wrabel
Lynn Wright
(† - Not Vestry members)

Standing Committees & Chairs

Finance: TBA
Property: Tim Buchholtz
Hospitality: Kim Laxton
Stewardship: TBA

* * * * *

Episcopal Church Women:

Dorothy Herndon

Daughters of the King:

Carla Spencer

Rector's Message continued. . .

energy generated. I am then defensive or biting my tongue to control my own judgments or desire to attack back. The result is a half response, at best, because the environment is not safe and congenial.

Responses of this sort are usually full of assumptions: "I did understand you. I know your motivation. I know what you're trying to say. Therefore, I actually have the need and right to attack you." Normally, neither person grows or expands in such a context. The truth is not well served, because neither individual feels secure, respected, or connected. Unfortunately, this has become the state of our public discourse.

Fortunately, there will always be people who have the grace and the ability to engage in reflective listening, to ask, "Richard, did I understand what you were saying?" and repeat back to me their perception of what I said. Normally then I can clarify, or perhaps admit that I have communicated poorly or am, in fact, incorrect. When we can listen and respond in that way, each person is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve as children of God. Each person feels heard, and misunderstandings are clarified compassionately.

Unfortunately that is not the way the ego likes to work. Opposition gives us a sense of standing for something, a false sense of independence, power, and control. Compassion and humility don't give us a sense of control or psychic comfort. We have to be willing to let go of our moral high ground and

hear the truth that the other person may be speaking, even if it is only ten percent of what they are saying. Compassion and dialogue are essentially vulnerable positions. If we are into control and predictability, we will seldom descend into the vulnerability of undefended listening or the scariness of dialogue. If we are incapable of hearing others, we will also be incapable of hearing God. If we spend all day controlling and blocking others, why would we change when we kneel to pray? Concludes Fr. Rohr.

Engaging in conversation with care, and undefended listening, are spiritual tasks; Fr. Rohr speaks of the importance of finding ways to accomplish this. In this sultry summer month of August, this is good work for our spiritual journey, and we all have many occasions to practice. We can each be part of giving voice in a way that communicates less violence and negative energy, to bring understanding, clarity, and respect for a range of perspectives.

May you be skillful in holy speaking and listening, SEB+



St. James Cycle of Prayers

In August, we give thanks for all those who participate in the St. James communication ministries – the newsletter, the web site, Facebook page and the telephone committee. We pray that their ministries will continue to spread the word about parish events, worship services, and parish news to all the Saints of James and others interested in our parish.

TREASURERS' CORNER . . .

By Kevin Shepherd

Financials: June 2022

(These are Year-to-Date actual amounts not budgeted amounts)

Operating Income: \$63,616.67
 Operating Expenses: \$110,740.18
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:
 (\$47,123.51)

OUTREACH NEWS...

The benevolence offering for August goes The Bradley Free Clinic Please give generously to support this worthy organization. Checks made payable to St. James Episcopal Church with "outreach" written the memo line may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

The mission of the Bradley Free Clinic is to provide compassionate and comprehensive health care services in partnership with high quality

professional volunteers for residents of the Roanoke Valley. This mission is carried out through their efforts to promote a community of healthy and productive people by providing accessible and high-quality health care services. The Bradley Free Clinic serves low income, uninsured, or underinsured residents of the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas.

NEWS FROM BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA . . .

Summer Wish List: Navy blue blazers, long sleeve white button-up shirts, khaki pants (men & boys sizes), new pillows, boxes of tissues, red pens, composition notebooks, 3-ring binders, jump drives, batteries (AAA, AA, 9-volt), shampoo & body wash, combs and hair picks, liquid body wash.

Farm wish list: shovels, pitch forks, hoes, gravel rakes, leaf rakes, manure forks, safety glasses, 18" chainsaw. Contributions of these items are welcomed as part of our benevolence support of Boys Home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Round Hill School Supply Collection

It is time for our annual back to school collection of classroom supplies for Round Hill Elementary School, our local neighborhood school. You can help support our partnership with the students, teachers and staff by picking up some needed items, and leaving them in the Round Hill box in the Parish Hall. This collection is part of a larger

valley wide project sponsored by Congregations in Action (CIA).

Here is the list of what is needed:

- ✚ New underwear and new or gently used short and long pants, girls and boys sizes 4,5,6
- ✚ Glue sticks (large size .77 oz)
- ✚ 8 or 10 or 16 or 24 crayons
- ✚ pink erasers
- ✚ #2 pencils
- ✚ children's scissors
- ✚ small dry erase markers
- ✚ marbled composition books
- ✚ Ziplock bags (sandwich, quart, & gallon size)
- ✚ baby wipes
- ✚ hand sanitizer

Jimmy Jars for Deborah Nyanokol

We have for a number of years, paid the school fees for Deborah Nyanokol, a South Sudanese 15-year-old orphan who lives at Hope House in Kenya with other South Sudanese refugee children, taken care of by Bishop Peter Gur Yuol and his wife. Deborah's picture is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Because of COVID, the children of Hope House are on an accelerated quarter system, and we will have an update on Deborah and her secondary school fees, in early August. In the meantime, the **Jimmy Jars for Deborah's school fees** are ready for you to pick up and the jars will be filled until the end of September. Pick up your jar on the pew by the kitchen, collect your change, bills, checks, stocks, annual with-drawls, or whatever assets you have that will help Deborah

get a good education, which is the key to becoming successful. Make a difference in one young girl's life, and who knows how many lives she will touch. Your gift will keep on giving.

Treat of the Week Donations

Thank you to those who have donated to our weekly coffee hour, "your lucky day" event. Please continue your contributions. Items welcomed include gift cards, food items, specialty baskets, holiday themed items, and small practical gifts. The proceeds from your ticket donation, go to the Building Fund for property repairs and replacements. Karen Martin welcomes your Treat of the Week donations.

Prayer Group Meeting on Thursdays

The Prayer Group is meeting on Thursdays at 9:30 am, in the Parish Hall. Anyone who is available at that time is welcome to attend as often as possible. Prayer requests can be added to the Prayer List in the Parish Hall, or given to the Rector. Please note if you want the name listed in the bulletin or to be put on the Prayer Group's confidential list. For more information, contact Dorothy Herndon.

Forward Day By Day

Forward Day By Day devotionals for August, September and October are available for pick up at St. James in the Parish Hall. The devotionals are \$1; there is a collection jar in the Parish Hall. Feel free to share Forward Day By Day with family, friends and neighbors,

or other Saints of James who may not be getting to Church.

Little Free Pantry And Produce Stand

Our Little Free Pantry continues to be well used and appreciated. Please continue to stock our pantry with non-perishable foods, personal care items and paper goods. Seasonal fruits and vegetables can be left on the produce stand to provide nutritional, fresh food.

Two ways to help fundraise for St. James:

(1) Kroger. In order for your Kroger grocery purchases to be credited towards St. James fundraising efforts, you will need to register online with Kroger (www.kroger.com/communityrewards). St. James' exclusive community rewards organization number is VM990. If you need assistance with signing up, please contact Avis Aheron (avisaheron@hotmail.com or 540-580-9203). It will take just a few minutes to sign you up, and St. James will receive a check based on the percentage of sales, split among participating organizations.

(2) AmazonSmile. If you do any online shopping through Amazon, St. James could be receiving a percentage of your purchases. Simply log on at www.smile.amazon.com, designate St. James as your charity of choice and let the shopping begin. If you have any questions about setting this up, please contact: Avis Aheron (540-580-9203).

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS. . .

August 1 Brooke Frost
 August 1 D W Hart
 August 3 Mercedes Malick
 August 4 Mary Leigh Capps
 August 5 Susan Bentley
 August 6 Rose Blessing Anderson
 August 6 Liam Hart
 August 6 Ryan Laxton
 August 7 Betty Harnsberger
 August 8 Margaret Williamson
 August 9 Jennifer Champion Hanson
 August 9 Jordyn Rae Price
 August 10 Cathy Cohen
 August 11 Melissa Hays-Smith
 August 12 Bryan Oliver Witz
 August 13 Kirin Lynne Johnstone
 August 13 Shelby Laxton
 August 17 JoAnn Criscione
 August 18 Mark Curley
 August 19 Allison Chan
 August 19 Butch Eanes
 August 19 Steve Wiegandt
 August 20 D. Karen Martin
 August 22 Clay Kasey
 August 22 Kevin Laxton
 August 24 Dawn Hensel
 August 29 Avis Aheron

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES. . .

August 4 Ray & Lawton Kasey
 August 6 Rick & Elizabeth Stevens
 August 8 James & Linda Kyle
 August 10 Michael & Sue Bentley
 August 10 Art Tatman & Andy Cochran
 August 18 Donna & Arby Frost

**BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY:
AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT MINISTRY**

It is hard at times to write about love in these times of tension and strife. Dorothy Day wrote, "What else is the world interested in? What else do we all want, except to love and be loved, in our work, in our families, in all our relationships. God is Love."

God's Love is certainly at work within our Episcopal Community Sponsorship! Our ministry has completed its three months partnership with Commonwealth Catholic Charities. We are so grateful for their exceptional mentoring, guidance, support with legal issues and basics for our families during their initial three months in America. We could never have come to where we are without walking at CCC's side.

And now we continue as relationships with our families deepen and are filled with such blessings, joys, and wonders.

Our families, consisting of eleven individuals ranging in age from six to eighty, have progressed in learning English from our ESL mentors. They are learning the intricacies of American financial workings, now having their own bank accounts, checking and automatic deposits and withdrawals. Three of our families' members have jobs which they like and find pride doing. Health care is now provided for all, including two who are at - risk patients. Cultural orientation is a blast when we visit grocery stores or go to Target. The boys take special note of unit pricing and are frugal shoppers. Two of the four boys begin middle school this fall which will be a significant transition.

The two younger boys continue their elementary educations. All four continue to be mentored in ESL and tutoring when needed.

Thanks to the lawyer who helps coordinate this ministry, all eleven people will soon have their asylum applications ready for submission.

Where the future will go remains to discover as we follow family needs and discern the winds of the Holy Spirit. What we most assuredly know is we are in this for the journey. Mentoring, tutoring, transportation needs, health care will all continue to require support.

Four of our eight churches have largely supported the hands-on support of mentoring, transporting, and meeting with our families. (St. John's, Christ Episcopal, St. Elizabeth's, St. Mark's, Fincastle). Our other four churches remain a vital role in this Sponsorship. (Christ, Martinsville; Trinity, Rocky Mount; St. James; Trinity Ecumenical, SML). Your financial contributions and offerings of material needs will continue to be gratefully received.

Heather Rousseau, photojournalist with the Roanoke Times, is writing our families' stories, how our ministry was formed, and how it has grown into this powerful expression of Becoming Beloved Community. The article will be published mid-August in commemoration of the one year anniversary of Taliban's takeover of their country and the family's harrowing escape.

We want to humbly and gratefully thank every church and its members in this Episcopal Community Sponsorship for your wondrous support. New and varied volunteer needs are being identified. Contact Jan or Joe to learn

more. We are growing in the love of this ministry. We welcome your continued presence.

God is truly at work here. Truly!!!

Chaplain Jan Therien, Ministry
Coordinator
therienjan@gmail.com/540-588-3590
Joe Mott, Co-coordinator
mottcom@cox.net/ 540-212-0263

God's Love for You and Me God's Wonderful Love

God loves you and me
He died upon the tree
He shed His blood on Calvary
That we all may be free

Free from eternal death
Free from sin and shame
Free to live forever
To call upon God's name

We can call in time of trouble
He'll listen when we're sad
He'll be there when we need him
To save us from the bad.

God loves you so very much
Accept Him now today
Kneel down and close your eyes
And this is what you say:

I am sorry for my sin
Forgive me Lord today
I want to live for you
To live for you always.

- *Rebekah Robinson*

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2022

Aug 7**8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Thomas Rucker	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Grant Rucker	Coffee	Carl & Pat Ball
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Chalcist	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley		
	Lector 2	Lynn Wright		
	Prayers	Maile Armstrong		

Aug 14**8 AM** *Lector – Bill Barksdale, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Jordyn Price	Ushers	Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous
	Acolyte	Madde Shepherd	Coffee	Art Tatman, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chalcist	Lawton Kasey	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Carla Spencer		
	Lector 2	Sabrina Mattox		
	Prayers	Betsy Briggs		

Aug 21**8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler, Chalcist – Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Yuri Malick	Ushers	Kevin & Madde Shepherd
	Acolyte	Zenon Malick	Coffee	Kim & Kevin Laxton
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Larry Mattox, Jim McGlothlin
	Chalcist	Katie Rucker	Altar Guild	Danny Fainter, Gail Fields
	Lector 1	Chris Criscione		
	Lector 2	Phil Hobrla		
	Prayers	Jessica Price		

Aug 28**8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Ray Kasey, Larry Mattox
	Acolyte	Madalyn Linkous	Coffee	Odell James, Dottie Wrabel, Machele Huff
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost
	Chalcist	Art Tatman	Altar Guild	Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller
	Lector 1	Donna Frost		
	Lector 2	Jackie Leonard		
	Prayers	JoAnn Criscione		

Sept 4**8 AM** *Lector – Bill Barksdale,, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

10 AM	Crucifer	Grant Rucker	Ushers	Jim & Mary McGlothlin
	Acolyte	Thomas Rucker	Coffee	Beth & Steve Wiegandt
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy
	Chalcist	Kevin Shepherd	Altar Guild	Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker
	Lector 1	Jessica Price		
	Lector 2	Carla Spencer		
	Prayers	Art Tatman		

Sept 11**8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler, Chalcist – Bill Barksdale*

10 AM	Crucifer	Madde Shepherd	Ushers	Chris & JoAnn Criscione
	Acolyte	Jordyn Price	Coffee	Danny Fainter, Gerald Gordon, Gail Fields
	T Bearer	-----	Nursery	-----
		-----	Tellers	Arby Frost, Katie Rucker
	Chalcist	Lawton Kasey	Altar Guild	Boots Ingram, Odell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley		
	Lector 2	Lynn Wright		
	Prayers	Maile Armstrong		

Note: If you can't meet your scheduled time please find a substitute and let the Office know.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 PM Women's NA Group	2 6:30 PM AA	3 10:00AM Knitting Group	4 9:30 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	5	6 10:00 AM AA
7 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 2:30 PM AA 5:30 PM South Sudanese Worship	8 5:30 PM Women's NA Group	9 6:30 PM AA	10 6:30 PM Little Church Social Club	11 9:30 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	12	13 10:00 AM AA
14 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 2:30 PM AA 5:30 PM South Sudanese Worship	15 5:30 PM Women's NA Group 7:00 PM Vestry	16 6:30 PM AA	17	18 9:30 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	19 5:30 PM Down Syndrome Support Group	20 10:00 AM AA
21 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 2:30 PM AA 5:30 PM South Sudanese Worship	22 5:30 PM Women's NA Group	23 6:30 PM AA	24 6:30 PM Little Church Social Club	25 9:30 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM AA	26	27 10:00 AM AA
28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 2:30 PM AA 5:30 PM South Sudanese Worship	29 5:30 PM Women's NA Group	30 6:30 PM AA	31			