

# the st. james



## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

**JUNE  
2022**

Volume 22 Number 6



### Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

June 12<sup>th</sup>  
Graduation Sunday

July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Feast of St. James Day

The 10:00 a.m. Worship Service is live streamed weekly and recorded for later viewing through the St. James YouTube Channel. The link is in the weekly e-Announcements sent to your email.

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Dear Saints of James,

*"Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book,"* wrote author Jane Smiley. I had to smile when I read this, for I share this sentiment. I sit in my office, surrounded by books, and enjoy a cozy feeling of being in the company of friends. I can't explain the feeling, but books give me a sense of well-being, and reading is one of my pleasures in life. So, I share some of my books waiting to be read this summer. What is on your reading list? SEB+

**The Rose Code**, by Kate Quinn, a heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park, England, and the spy they must root out after the war is over. The Rose Code effortlessly evokes the frantic, nervy, exuberant world of the Enigma codebreakers through the eyes of three extraordinary women who work in tireless secrecy to defeat the Nazis. Quinn's meticulous research and impeccable characterization shine through this gripping and beautifully executed novel.

**God Is A Black Woman**, by Christena Cleveland. For years, Christena Cleveland spoke about racial reconciliation to congregations, justice organizations, and colleges. But she increasingly felt she could no longer trust in the God she'd been implicitly taught to worship - a White male God who preferentially empowered White men despite his claim to love all people. A God who clearly did not relate to, advocate for, or affirm a Black woman like Christena. Her crisis of faith sent her on an intellectual and spiritual journey through history and across France, on a 400-mile walking pilgrimage to the ancient shrines of Black Madonnas to find healing in the Sacred Black Feminine.

**St. James Episcopal Church**

**Clergy:**

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver,  
Adjunct Pastoral Associate  
The Rev. William R. Eanes, Retired Deacon

**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. .**

**Waypoints, A Journey on Foot,** by Robert Martineau. At the age of twenty-seven, and afraid of falling into a life he doesn't want, Robert Martineau quits his office job, buys a flight to Accra, Africa, and begins to walk. He walks 1,000 miles through Ghana, Togo and Benin, to Ouidah, an ancient spiritual Centre on the West African coast. Through the process of walking each day, and the lessons of those he walks among, Martineau starts to find the freedom he craves, and to build connections with the natural world and the past.

**How Dogs Love Us: A Neuroscientist and His Adopted Dog Decode the Canine Brain,** by Gregory Berns.

Emory University neuroscientist Gregory Berns had spent decades using MRI imaging technology to study how the human brain works, but a different question still nagged at him: What is my dog thinking? After his family adopted Callie, a shy, skinny terrier mix, Berns decided that there was only one way to answer that question - use an MRI machine to scan the dog's brain. Berns and his dog would embark on a remarkable journey and be the first to glimpse the inner workings of the canine brain. Berns's research offers surprising results on how dogs empathize with human emotions, how they love us, and why dogs and humans share one of the most remarkable friendships in the animal kingdom.

**My Life on the Road,** by Gloria Steinem. Steinem had an itinerant childhood. Every fall, her father would pack the family into the car and they would drive across the country, in

search of their next adventure. The seeds were planted: Steinem would spend much of her life on the road, as a journalist, organizer, activist, and speaker. In vivid stories that span an entire career, Steinem writes about her time on the campaign trail, from Bobby Kennedy to Hillary Clinton; her early exposure to social activism in India; organizing ground-up movements in America; the taxi drivers who were "vectors of modern myths" and the airline stewardesses who embraced feminism; and the infinite contrasts, the "surrealism in everyday life" that Steinem encountered as she travelled back and forth across the country. With the unique perspective of one of the greatest feminist icons of the 20th and 21st centuries, here is an inspiring, profound, enlightening memoir of one woman's life-long journey.

**The Judges List**, by John Grisham.

Lawyer Lacy Stoltz is tired of her work for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct and ready for a change. Then she meets a mysterious woman who is so frightened she uses a number of aliases. Jeri Crosby's father was murdered twenty years earlier in a case that remains unsolved and that has grown stone cold. But Jeri has a suspect whom she has become obsessed with and has stalked for two decades. Along the way, she has discovered other victims. Suspicions are easy enough, but proof seems impossible. The man is brilliant, patient, and always one step ahead of law enforcement. He is the most cunning of all serial killers. He knows forensics, police procedure, and most important: he knows the law. He is a judge, in Florida—under Lacy's

jurisdiction. He has a list, with the names of his victims and targets, all unsuspecting people unlucky enough to have crossed his path and wronged him in some way. How can Lacy pursue him, without becoming the next name on his list?

**Deacon's Message . . .**

Until last summer, I had lived all of my life in and around Richmond, Virginia. I have a blended family, three girls, and many grandchildren. Once the children were all grown and on their own, my husband and I moved to the more rural Powhatan County, and I started attending a small Episcopal church. Two months later, my husband died and the church community was there for me, offering kindness and acceptance.

My ministry started in the kitchen, bringing donuts for the coffee hour. From there, I served in many areas of the church, including Lector and Chalice, Sunday School and Diocesan youth events, Vestry, and leading services at a local nursing home and a street ministry in downtown Richmond. My prison ministry began when I was invited to attend a closing ceremony for a Kairos weekend. Kairos Prison Ministry is ecumenical in nature, and team members come from a variety of denominations.

When we enter a prison, we leave behind not only our keys and our phones, but we leave behind particular aspects of our own denomination. There is no communion, no laying on of hands, no rosary, no prayer book. We

go in with our stories, how Jesus Christ has transformed our lives and we, as volunteers, seek with a servant's heart to share our experience and faith with those who are incarcerated.

It was a Kairos weekend where I made the decision to go forward and seek ordination as a Deacon. I was in the midst of discerning, going back and forth, wanting someone else to make that decision. Residents were assigned to tables by age. I had the youngest group. Young women who were now in the correctional system because of very bad choices. This is when I knew I had to put aside my own insecurities and work in this ministry.

It has been two years since I have been able to serve in a prison, but after much planning and preparation, we hope to re-enter this summer. It's been a hard two years for everyone, but I am thankful to have had to time to plan the next chapter of my life, which included my move to Roanoke. I am also thankful to have once again found a church community who from the beginning has welcomed me with kindness and acceptance.

Deacon Linda Ricker

### **St. James Cycle of Prayers**

*In June, we give thanks for the ministry and service of the Daughters of the King. We pray that their active membership continues to grow as they enhance their understanding of Christian life, their service to our parish, and their willingness to aid those in need outside the parish.*

### **VESTRY CORNER . . .**

#### **Vestry Update on Covid Procedures**

Each month, the Vestry reviews our Covid19 protocols for worship and parish gatherings. At our May meeting, we began a discussion that Bishop Mark asked the parish priests to have with their Vestries, of developing a plan for "normalizing" Communion, meaning returning to the way we used to distribute Communion. As Episcopalians, we believe that the Holy Eucharist is central to our worship and spiritual health, and receiving the blessed Sacrament is part of our weekly liturgy. During this Covid19 pandemic, we have had to make decisions based on the knowledge we had about the virus, and the particular context of our parish and our congregation. Since we regathered for in person, in door worship, we have not shared a common chalice, but offered the consecrated wine in individual cups. This seemed to

be the safe thing to do, but it has never been part of our practice as Episcopalians. In both our Episcopal theology and tradition, the common chalice has been central to our participation in Communion, based on the Gospel accounts of Jesus blessing one cup of wine and sharing that cup with his disciples. For us, it reflects the unity of one Body in Christ.

I think the question remains, what is the health risk to sharing a common chalice, since the SARS-CoV-2 virus has not been eradicated. Historically, the public health data reports that it is safe to drink from the chalice since the combination of noble metal with high-content alcohol provides a powerful antiseptic which kills germs on contact, and the rim of the Chalice is wiped after each person sips. There have been no documented cases of any disease ever being spread through the sharing of a common Chalice. However, I wanted to review current data on the Covid19 virus. From the articles I read, the following March 29, 2022 article summarizes the current thinking:

### **The Common Cup and SARS-CoV-2 Infection Risk**

By The Reverend Michael Garner MSc MDiv, Public Health Advisor to the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

*Despite concerns about infection transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through the common cup there are no documented cases, nor a mechanism of transmission that suggests any risk. 1. The route of SARS-CoV-2 infection is respiratory, spread through aerosols*

*and droplets; 2. The risk of catching COVID is far greater from breathing air exhaled by an infectious person next to you than from sharing a common cup. 3. While the rim of the Chalice does have contact with saliva, the ability to transmit an infectious dose of COVID through this surface exposure is extremely low. 4. The Chaliceist does experience a small increase in risk because of mask removal by recipients of the Chalice; this risk can be mitigated by the Chaliceist wearing a high-quality well-fitting mask.*

The Vestry has agreed upon a plan to offer the common Chalice, with options for the congregation, aware that everyone has different risk tolerance and personal situations. In mid-June, the blessed sacramental wine will be offered to the congregation in the Chalice, as well as in the individual cups. As we monitor the Covid virus, and it seems advisable, phase two will be to use the common Chalice, and have a separate intincture cup for those who do not want to sip from the Chalice. Phase three will be to fully return to using the common Chalice for distribution of the consecrated wine - the Blood of Christ. At any phase, individuals can choose to receive only the consecrated bread.

The Vestry reaffirmed its "optional masking" policy, aware that if the Covid19 virus spikes again, we will reevaluate our safety policies and revise them. The most important thing is that you do what you feel is best for yourself and your loved ones. If you have comments or concerns, please talk to a Vestry member or the Rector. SEB+

**TREASURERS' CORNER . . .**

By Kevin Shepherd

**Financials: April 2022****(These are Year-to-Date actual amounts not budgeted amounts)**

Operating Income: \$48,326.16  
 Operating Expenses: \$77,776.86  
 Net (Loss) Operating Income:  
 (\$33,808.07)

**OUTREACH NEWS...**

The benevolence offering for June goes to West End Center. Please give generously to support this worthy group. 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.

**June 19: West End Center** serves about 150 children each year who live in Roanoke's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to equip children with the developmental assets they need to become productive, responsible adults. To accomplish this goal, West End Center offers a comprehensive educational program. Programs offered are: The Tutoring Program, The Literacy Program, Virtual Learning, The Fitness and Nutrition Program, USDA Feeding Program, Social Skills Development, Leadership Program, Parents' Group, and a Summer Program. For details on the programs visit their website:

**<https://www.westendcenter.org>**

**YOUTH NEWS....****Diocesan Youth Summer Mission Trips at Grace House**

Join with other Diocesan youth this summer for a week of service and fellowship at Grace House on the Mountain. Grace House is a non-profit organization owned and operated by The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia perched on Sandy Ridge near Norton and St. Paul in Wise County, Virginia. Grace House seeks to be a place of social justice and advocacy for the welfare of the Appalachian people.

Grace House on the Mountain endeavors to extend the love of Christ by reaching out into communities showing mercy and compassion, through responsiveness by "working with, not for" the families in the surrounding area. Our work projects center on helping families in need to have safe, warm, and dry homes. In addition to the work projects, Grace House on the Mountain extends outreach services to the surrounding community by offering financial assistance with essential services such as electricity, water, and medicine.

The mission of Grace House is to provide our visiting groups with the experience of a lifetime, learning about the culture and ways of life here in the Appalachian Mountains.

The Diocesan youth mission trips this summer offering a separate trip for middle and high schoolers to make the experience even more close-knit and meaningful for our youth participants. Save the dates of **June 19-25 for middle schoolers and June 26-July 1 for high schoolers.** For more

information and to register, go to:  
<https://youth.dioswva.org>.

## SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Camps for children and youth, and families. Register today:

- Phoebe Needles, Day Camps & Residential Camps:  
<https://phoebeneedles.org/camps/residential-camp/>
- Diocesan Summer Mission Trips at Grace House. Join us this summer for a week of service and fellowship at Grace House on the Mountain. We are offering separate trips for middle and high schoolers to make the experience even more close-knit and meaningful for our youth participants. Save the dates of  
**June 19-25 for middle schoolers** and **June 26-July 1 for high schoolers**. For information and to register, go to:  
<https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/ks07ztn13dr1b1/>
- Kanuga:  
<https://www.kanuga.org/our-programs/youth-conferences/youth-week/>

## NEWS FROM BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA . . .

Submitted by Linda Bryant

### The Living Last Supper" Play

Leonardo da Vinci's painting came to life as current Boys Home students portrayed the powerful story of Jesus's

last supper with His twelve disciples. For some students, this was their theater debut. Other students were tapping into previous theatrical performances. From the cast to the lighting crew, the students shined! The performance concluded with a standing ovation by the audience. The students were appropriately rewarded with a pizza party, dessert bar, lemonade and a goody bag. A fun time was had by all!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

### Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 12th, we will celebrate our graduates, and this year we have two.

**Jennifer Fitzpatrick**, is graduating from Craig County High School, and has served as an acolyte and crucifer at St. James. Jen graduates having completed the Nurses Aid II training through Botetourt Technical Education Center.

**Samson Mamour** has graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, with his Masters of Divinity. Sponsored by our St. James parish, Samson has progressed through the ordination

process of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and God willing, and with the consent of the people, will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon, June 18, 2022, 11:00 am, at Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington, VA. All are invited to attend.

### **Treat of the Week Donations Needed**

The supply of contributions for the Treat of the Week, has ended and we are in need of donations for our weekly coffee hour, "your lucky day" event. 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 will be meeting on Thursdays at 9:30 am, beginning on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

### **Blessing of the Apples Trees for our Food Ministry**

**Pentecost Sunday, June 5**, will be the blessing of our apple trees following the 10 a.m. service. Two apple trees have

been planted as part of our neighborhood food ministry. The trees will be blessed and dedicated to the Saints of James who died in 2020 and 2021: Jerry Schaefer, Nan Burnett, Mary Ann Tuggle, Nancy Slaughter, Lonnie Bower, Margaret Bosworth, Bob Wright, Mimi Copenhaver. Family and friends of these saints are invited to come to the service and blessing.

### **Forward Day By Day**

Forward Day By Day devotionals for **May, June and July**, 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.

### **Afghan Resettlement Ministry**

In community the Presence of the Holy Spirit is known. Surely this is demonstrated within what is now formally titled the Episcopal Community Sponsorship. Working with Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC), eight of our Roanoke Convocation Churches are sponsoring an Afghan family in refugee status. The family consists of a father, aged 36, his wife, 31, their two sons ages 11 and 6 and the father's mother, age 80.

Thanks to our church communities, our family's house is a completely furnished home -- A completely stocked kitchen, living room furniture with dining table, rugs, bedding for all family, all essential bathroom supplies, an iron,

sewing machine (the women make their own clothing), vacuum, gas grill and outdoor furniture, laptops, bikes for the boys (helmets included), even a chess set and checkers. The children are enrolled in school. The father is employed. Primary medical care begins early May. Grocery shopping with the family occurs every two weeks. Our coordinators meet weekly with the family and our Core Team meets monthly with CCC, and weekly on a team zoom.

English as a second language is being taught to the boys and also the adults by mentors from St. Johns and Christ Episcopal four days a week. To hear the wife reply to my question, “where do you live?” in English brought tears of joy to both of us.

All this has happened by such a powerful, growing force called community forming and working together. It has required so much gracious giving, moving furniture, collaborating to get a job done, and leaving with a sense that something very Holy is happening with this family and within us. There are relationships building here which will ever remain. We are truly helping to grow Beloved Community.

And, it is possible because of all of you, our partners in this ministry: Christ Episcopal, Roanoke; St. John’s, Roanoke; Christ, Martinsville; St. Elizabeth’s, Roanoke; St. Mark’s, Fincastle; St. James, Roanoke; Trinity, Rocky Mount; Trinity Ecumenical, Smith Mountain Lake.

**The most immediate need currently is assistance to pay the family’s bills, as the financial assistance from Commonwealth**

**Catholic Charities has ended. If you can help with a financial contribution, please contact Jan Therien, Ministry Coordinator, [therienjan@gmail.com](mailto:therienjan@gmail.com).**

We offer grateful thanks and appreciation for all you have given, materially and in yourselves. We have definitely become community. We are definitely growing together Beloved Community.

In Peace,  
Jan Therien  
Chaplain and Ministry Coordinator  
Joe Mott  
Co-Coordinator

### **Little Free Pantry**

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. Items that may not be on your list but are welcomed are: bread, crackers, flour, sugar, salt, pepper, oil, powdered milk, tea bags, can openers, and women’s hygiene products.

### **Altar Flowers**

It is time to sign up to give altar flowers for 2022. The Altar Flower chart is on the bulletin board by the kitchen, and you are invited to sign up for the Sundays that you wish to give flowers in 2022. Flowers each week are \$25.00, and checks can be made out to St. James Episcopal Church, with a memo of “flower fund” and left in the office, or put in the offering plate. If you know what dedication you would like for the

flowers, you can turn that in with your money. If you are not sure at this time, then you will need to leave the dedication information at the Church office, or email it to [stjames@rev.net](mailto:stjames@rev.net), prior to the Sunday you will be giving flowers.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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).

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS...**

June 3	Joe Hart
June 6	Jimmy Champion
June 10	James Kyle
June 11	Joseph Champion
June 12	Marc Rucker
June 14	Kim Laxton
June 16	Maile Armstrong
June 16	Danny Fainter
June 18	Sabrina Mattox
June 22	Kristen Johnstone
June 23	Gerald Gordon
June 24	Henry Schumm
June 25	Doris Mattox
June 27	Jonathan Harris
June 28	Renée Toth
June 29	Darla Schumm
June 29	Arby Frost
June 30	Matthew Bentley

### **JUNE ANNIVERSARIES...**

June 6	Carol & Butch Eanes
June 9	Brooke Frost and Julio Morant
June 11	Mary & Jim McGlothlin
June 13	Jessica & D. W. Hart
June 16	Jessica & Brandt Gawor
June 17	Jessica & Danny Price
June 20	Beth & Steve Wiegandt
June 25	Mother Sue's ordination as a Deacon

### **Black in Appalachia**

Several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of journeying with a group of diocesan youth, five of which were from St. James, on the Black in Appalachia Youth Pilgrimage.

Our journey began on Friday night when we were visited, via zoom, by the pre-eminent historian of black history in Appalachia. A native of Harlan, Kentucky, Dr. Turner has devoted much of his life to the study of the black experience in Appalachia. During his time with our youth, he explained how black people moved into the mountain region, the richness of their culture and influence on the area. Most importantly, however, is that he reminded us that black history is American history and should be studied as such.

Saturday morning started with a stop at one of three lynching sites in the Appalachian region where UVA- Wise professor, Dr. Tom Costa explained the research that goes into uncovering the history of a lynching. From examining slave registers to unearthing courthouse documents, the life and death of Wiley Gwen, began to slowly emerge. As we stood in a quiet church parking lot overlooking an open field, Dr. Costa painted a picture of a life cut short by white vigilantes.

Our next stop took us to Pound Gap and the border of Virginia and Kentucky where we met Margaret Meade Sturgill, president of the Pound Historical Society. Ms. Sturgill gave her personal testimony of how a person can change over time. Initially, when Ms. Sturgill heard of the initiative to place a historical marker commemorating the lynching of Leonard Woods, she dismissed it. In her words, she was “embarrassed” that this had happened in her hometown and wanted to speak no more of it. As she learned more about the events surrounding the lynching of Mr. Woods, she had a change of heart. Placing a marker at the roadside became a priority

for her and she worked tirelessly to see the marker erected. As we stood on the side of this busy highway, our group was in view of the very marker that she once stood against, but today is proud to stand beside.

Stop #3 took us high atop Black Mountain and the cemetery of Dan Fields. Members of the Appalachian Alliance, (a coalition of four Episcopal Churches in Appalachia), brought their four-wheel drive trucks and we ventured up the mountainous terrain to see the mountain top settlement of freedman Dan Richmond. Our guide for the weekend, and resident Black in Appalachia historian, Rev. Preston Mitchell, has been researching the Dan Fields Cemetery for many years. It was in this cemetery, surrounded by the unmarked graves of the family of Dan Richmond, that St. James youth, Abby Price, Jordyn Price, Yuri Maddox, Sherry Powell and Dakota Powell participated in our morning litany. As the litany came to a close, we stood in silence, praying for those who lay in eternal rest.

Our silence was short lived as we descended from the mountain top to a wonderful lunch hosted by Williams Chapel AME Zion Church and several of the members of Christ Episcopal Church, Big Stone Gap. Our afternoon litany was held in the sanctuary of Williams Chapel and we were honored to have their minister of over 20 years, Rev. Sandra Jones, join us for lunch.

Our final destination was the Appalachian African American Cultural Center where three pillars in the Black in Appalachia movement met us for story sharing of their own account of growing up black in Appalachia. Ron and Jill Carson, co-founders of the Appalachian

African American Cultural Center and William Isom, founder of Black in Appalachia, captivated our teens. All of the experiences throughout the day were impactful, but hearing from Ron Carson about his childhood in segregated Pennington Gap, while we sat in the one room schoolhouse (that he attended as a young boy) that now houses his black history collection will leave an indelible mark on our youth.

The definition of pilgrimage is any long journey, especially one undertaken as a quest or for a votive purpose, as to pay homage. By definition, this is exactly what youth experienced during the weekend of April 1-3, 2022. However, I pray that our youth can look past the long journey (and it was a lot of miles and time in the car!) and remember the second part of the definition. Those that attended heard first hand from people that spend their life educating others - shining bright lights on not just a brutal and unfair past, but also a people full of creativity, genius and deep faith- so that the future of not just Appalachia, but the future of our country, can be changed to reflect the love, honor and history of Blacks in Appalachia.

Jenni Faires  
Canon for Evangelism and Youth Ministry  
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

### What are gifts?

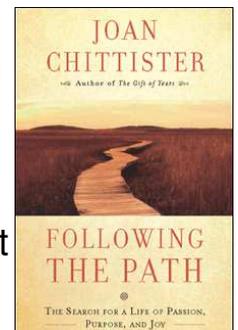
Gifts are contributions to the livability of life that we simply cannot not share with others. Positive psychologists tell us that one of the unfailing ways to identify our own gifts is to begin to notice what it is that moves us into an emotional zone beyond consciousness of time. When is it that we say with total honesty and simplicity, “I had no idea

that it was already midnight when I stopped knitting.”

I remember that Saturdays I couldn't wait to get into the small darkroom to develop and print the film I'd shot during the week. I loved the smell of the chemicals and the soft red light and the sight of the black-and-white print emerging in the swirling waters of the tray of developing fluid. In that room all time stopped for me. There was only one thing driving the work: the sheer giddy joy of producing what my mind had created and the knowledge that this exercise in getting something out of nothing would appear in the next issue of the little magazine I loved. My professional education was in other things, but it was giving expression to the ink in my veins that really touched the *me* in me.

A gift is a very personal part of us. It's special. It taps in us what nothing else in life can even begin to explore. And yet so many of us make so little of our gifts, consider them “hobbies” more than specialties, go so far sometimes as even to hide them from public sight. But it is in our giftedness that our future lies. To be really happy, we must either follow our gifts or find our gifts. Otherwise we run the risk of going to our graves only half alive.

When we finally take that first step toward being honest about what we ourselves really believe, really want to do, really enjoy most, are really most committed to doing for others—and do it—we become a person who is a gift to the rest of the human race. Then the



wisdom in us becomes a benefice to the rest of the world. Then we come closer to being our own true selves.

—from *Following the Path* by Joan Chittister

### **The Best Sermons are Lived Not Preached . . .**

Submitted by Donna Frost

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."
2. Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s - what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."
3. Today, after a 72-hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."
4. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.
5. Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.
6. Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."
7. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.
8. Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.
9. Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	2 <u>9:30 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	3 <u>10:00 AM</u> Service Dogs <u>1:00 PM</u> Service Dogs <u>6:00 PM</u> Service Dogs	4 <u>10:00 AM</u> AA
5 <u>8:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite I <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite II <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	6 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA Group	7 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	8 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	9 <u>9:30 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	10 <u>10:00 AM</u> Service Dogs <u>1:00 PM</u> Service Dogs <u>6:00 PM</u> Service Dogs	11 <u>10:00 AM</u> AA
12 <u>8:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite I <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite II <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	13 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA Group	14 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	15 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	16 <u>9:30 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	17 <u>10:00 AM</u> Service Dogs <u>1:00 PM</u> Service Dogs <u>5:30 PM</u> Downs Syndrome Support Group	18 <u>10:00 AM</u> AA
19 <u>8:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite I <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite II <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	20 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA Group <u>7:00 PM</u> Vestry	21 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	22 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	23 <u>9:30 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	24 <u>10:00 AM</u> Service Dogs <u>1:00 PM</u> Service Dogs <u>6:00 PM</u> Service Dogs	25 <u>10:00 AM</u> AA
26 <u>8:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite I <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Eucharist, Rite II <u>2:30 PM</u> AA	27 <u>5:30 PM</u> Women's NA Group	28 <u>6:30 PM</u> AA	29 <u>7:00 PM</u> Bible Study	30 <u>9:30 AM</u> Prayer Group <u>6:30 PM</u> AA		

## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2022

**June 5****8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

**10 AM** Crucifer Madde Shepherd  
 Acolyte Madalyn Linkous  
 T Bearer -----  
 -----  
 Chalcist Katie Rucker  
 Lector 1 Lynn Wright  
 Lector 2 Jessica Price  
 Prayers Maile Armstrong

Ushers Chris & JoAnn Criscione  
 Coffee Kim & Kevin Laxton  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy  
 Altar Guild Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller

**June 12****8 AM** *Lector – Bill Barksdale, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

**10 AM** Crucifer Yuri Malick  
 Acolyte Zenon Malick  
 T Bearer -----  
 -----  
 Chalcist Kevin Shepherd  
 Lector 1 Jackie Leonard  
 Lector 2 JoAnn Criscione  
 Prayers Chris Criscione

Ushers Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous  
 Coffee Dottie Wrabel, O'Dell James  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Larry Mattox, Maile Armstrong  
 Altar Guild Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker

**June 19****8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler, Chalcist – Bill Barksdale*

**10 AM** Crucifer Thomas Rucker  
 Acolyte Grant Rucker  
 T Bearer -----  
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 Chalcist Lawton Kasey  
 Lector 1 Donna Frost  
 Lector 2 Carla Spencer  
 Prayers Phil Hobria

Ushers Larry Mattox, Ray Kasey  
 Coffee Chris & JoAnn Criscione  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Arby Frost, Jim McGlothlin  
 Altar Guild Boots Ingram, O'Dell James, Karen Martin, Debbie Williams

**June 26****8 AM** *Lector and Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

**10 AM** Crucifer Jordyn Price  
 Acolyte Madalyn Linkous  
 T Bearer -----  
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 Chalcist Arby Frost  
 Lector 1 Betsy Briggs  
 Lector 2 Jessica Price  
 Prayers Michael Bentley

Ushers Jim & Mary McGlothlin  
 Coffee Carl & Pat Ball  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Maile Armstrong, Donna Frost  
 Altar Guild Danny Fainter, Gail Fields

**July 3****8 AM** *Lector – Bill Barksdale, Chalcist – Tim Buchholtz*

**10 AM** Crucifer Madde Shepherd  
 Acolyte Grant Rucker  
 T Bearer -----  
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 Chalcist Katie Rucker  
 Lector 1 Lynn Wright  
 Lector 2 Donna Frost  
 Prayers Maile Armstrong

Ushers Chris & JoAnn Criscione  
 Coffee Beth & Steve Wiegandt  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Gerald Gordon, Michael Kennedy  
 Altar Guild Linda Bryant, Dorothy Herndon, Sharon Miller

**July 10****8 AM** *Lector – Phil Wheeler, Chalcist – Bill Barksdale*

**10 AM** Crucifer Zenon Malick  
 Acolyte Yuri Malick  
 T Bearer -----  
 -----  
 Chalcist Kevin Shepherd  
 Lector 1 Chris Criscione  
 Lector 2 Art Tatman  
 Prayers Carla Spencer

Ushers Michael Bentley, Madalyn Linkous  
 Coffee Danny Fainter, Gerald Gordon, Gail Fields  
 Nursery -----  
 Tellers Arby Frost, Katie Rucker  
 Altar Guild Lawton Kasey, Betsy Briggs, Katie Rucker

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