From: St. James Episcopal Church, Amesbury <stjames.office@verizon.net>
To: stjames.clergy <stjames.clergy@verizon.net>
Subject: The September Connection
Date: Tue, Sep 4, 2018 2:03 pm

THE SEPTEMBER CONNECTION

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
*120 Main Street * Amesbury, MA*

Worship at St. James
September 9th: One service at 10am
September 16th: 8am and 10am Service resumes

stewardship

Planted Seeds 2018-2019

In many ways 2017-2018 was a transitional year. We began a search for a new Christian Education Coordinator that happily ended in calling our own Linda Davis Siess to this position, a position which she shares with St. Paul's in Newburyport and in which she is thriving. We also had a lot of turnover in our Vestry due to how our Vestry years fall. We thanked Beth Mauch and Linda Davis Siess for their years of service as well as Joan Miller our previous Senior Warden and Paulette Nolan our previous Clerk. We welcomed Meg Grant back on Vestry as our Senior Warden and Eleanor Yarranton as our Clerk. Heidi Tessmer and Bob Couchesne joined the Vestry, their first times serving in this capacity at St. James and Kelly Bennett opted to stay on for a second three year term. We have also made many additions to our

physical plant over the last year making sure we are in good stead to continue God's mission beginning at 120 Main Street and reaching out to the world. With all of these additions comes growth but only if we do what all caregivers must do to ensure both health and growth. So what is this?

Beginning on Sunday September 9th and continuing on subsequent Sundays through the month of October at both services we will learn more about the ministries of St. James. Different parishioners involved in a number of our vibrant ministries will tell why they have felt called to become involved in these ministries, what these ministries entail and especially how others can also become involved in these ministries. From youth ministry to choir to hospitality to Altar Servers to building and grounds and beyond there is a place for everyone at St. James just as there was a place for everyone and anyone who came to Jesus seeking to join a ministry that continues to transform the world, transform through disciples today, us. So come to our Sunday services, hear the stories of parishioners who have had the different seeds of ministry implanted in them and who knows maybe one, two or several of those seeds will find a spot in your life as we continue to discern where God is calling us in the next year.

We will join together as a community on Sunday October 28th at 5:00PM to celebrate the culmination of our Stewardship season with Pledge Sunday and dinner as we pledge our time, talent and treasure to ensure our seeds get all the loving care they will need to thrive and ensure new seeds for life, faith, ministry, transformation are being planted both within St. James, within one another and within the community and world as our relationship with God continues to blossom.

Fr. John

Annual Church Picnic

Our Annual Church Picnic will be celebrated following the 10 AM service on September 9th at Moseley Woods Park at the Pavilion beginning at 11:30am to 3:00pm.

Please bring a side dish, salad, chips, drinks and/or desserts.

Please note there will be no 8AM service this day.

14 Spofford Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts, 01950

Register Children for the New School Year September 9th

It's time! Sunday, September 9th is an exciting Sunday: church school registration, blessing of backpacks, commissioning of teachers, and more! Registration forms are available at church, or email me for a copy: stjames.christianeducation@gmail.com.

Click here to view our Godly Play Classrooms and/or to obtain a copy of the Registration Form. Just complete the form and bring it with you to our September 9th registration or mail it to:

St. James Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 25
Amesbury, MA. 01915

Attention: Christian Education

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, September 9th

All are invited to bring in their backpacks, briefcases, book bags, etc. so we can bless them for the new school year. We will also bless our teachers, bus drivers, students, school administrators and all others for their dedication in education.

Family Services 2018-2019

We will be doing something a little different with our Family Services this year. Instead of every first Sunday of the month, we have four family services on four different occasions. The service will include children's sermon, children participating in helping prepare for Communion and some new additions to our services in 2019.

Here are the dates for our family services for the new program year. We hope you all can attend. Family Service takes place at the 10AM Liturgy.

Sunday October 7th, Linda Davis-Siess
Christian Education Coordinator, Preacher

Monday December 24th, Christmas Eve 4pm Service
Sunday March 4th - The Last Sunday after The Epiphany
Sunday May 19th - Children Celebration Sunday

Re-envisioning Hospitality

Sunday hospitality is an integral part of our life together at St. James. It brings us together to "catch-up", welcome new-comers and simply enjoy each others company after the Liturgy. In order to keep it fresh and a shared ministry between parishioners we are trying something a little new this year.

Beginning on October 7th and continuing on every first Sunday of the month we will continue our hospitality hour as always with parishioners and

families combining to offer tasty tidbits and breakfast items, coffee and juice and to help with set-up/clean-up.

On the other Sundays of each month parishioners are invited to setup and clean-up coffee, juice and cheese and crackers, all of which the Church will supply.

This will take some of the pressure off feeling we need to do something "big" every Sunday and at the same time still have the opportunity to snack, chat and enjoy one another's company.

The sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

CPR Training For All Ages

Would you like to learn this simple and vital skill? The American Heart Association recommends training for everyone ten years of age or older - and St. James is thinking of offering a class this fall. Please let the office or Linda Davis Siess know if this is an opportunity you would like to take part in; if enough people are interested, we will schedule a class with the same professionals who trained our own St. James teachers.

YOUTH CONNECTION

Dear Youth,

We are excited to begin our new program year. Here is a sneak peak of what is coming, so mark your calendars now! You are welcome to bring friends to any of these events and scholarships are always available. Times TBD unless otherwise noted.

September - December 2018

September 22nd: Acolyte and Crucifer Training at 10am gather in the Parish Hall.

September 23rd: Bowling at Leo's Super Bowl following the 10am service until 2pm. (See details below).

October 7th: High School Event - Woburn "Breakout" Room. (See details below).

October 26th: Halloween Event. Details will be forthcoming.

November 16th through the 18th: Middle School Retreat at BCH.

December 14th: Friday Christmas Party and Game Night featuring Jeopardy, Scavenger Hunt and more.

January - May 2019

January 18th - 19th: Nightwatch at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine (NYC).

February 8th - 10th: High School Retreat at BCH.

March 2nd: Ice Skating at Graf Ice Rink
March 29th - 30th: Middle School Lock-In

April 18th - Maundy Thursday Event

May 17th: Middle School Event - Woburn "Breakout" Room.

May (date TBD) High School Event

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP AND FUN
SAVE THE DATES!

Youth Altar Party Training

Calling all youth in 5th grade or higher interested in Acolyting, Crucifering, Torch Bearing, Chalice Bearing (7th grade and up), Flag Bearing, Banner Bearing.

We will have training on Saturday morning September 22nd from 10AM-11:30 AM to go over each of these roles. This is a great way to see if these ministries might excite you as well as serves as a great refresher. A few things have changed since last year too so it is important that everyone try and make it. Donuts and juice will be served.

September - All Youth Bowling Event

Our first youth event will be Sunday, September 23rd following the 10am service. We will car pool over to Leo's Lanes for bowling and video games. Fr. John and Linda Davis Siess will chaperone this event, although drivers are always needed. St. James will pay for the lanes and shoes. Youth are responsible for food and video games (both of which are optional expenses) . Youth events are for anyone in 5th through 12th grade. Friends are always welcome!

October - High School Youth Event

Calling all high schoolers (9th-12th grade) on Sunday, October 7th (The Sunday before Columbus Day) we invite you all to "Breakout", an escape room located in Woburn. A description of Breakout and the game we will be trying to solve (Museum Heist) can be found at www.breakoutgames.com. On their website, scroll down until you find the video describing the Museum Heist (it looks pretty awesome). Once we get a count we will set a time and a price. Price varies on how many people we have. St. James will pay for some of the cost and cover the gas for the chaperones. An email will be sent out soon with further details. Friends are always welcome.

CHRISTIAN education

HAPPENINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITES

A Wonder-filled Godly Play Core Training

Thirteen people from far and near (Maine, Connecticut, and all over Massachusetts) traveled here to St James to enjoy an intense and joyful retreat in our Parish Hall, Godly Play classrooms, and Chapel: a Godly Play Core Training, led by our own talented Jenn Sanborn, on August 16, 17, and 18. From St James, Kimberly Potts and I attended, and Kimberly Barker and Terri Basler were present for part of the training, a time of learning and spiritual refreshment!

St James provided the meals, spaces, and materials, and the Holy Spirit provided the rest! It was a joyful, rigorous, meditative, fulfilling time of learning, sharing, and wondering.

Thank you to Jenn - for preparing the spaces, teaching, and also for a delicious pasta salad. Thank you to Kim Potts, for her unflagging enthusiasm and help with details, setup, and cleanup. We are grateful to Cindy Janik and Joan Miller for their welcome contributions of food and assistance. I was privileged to help set up, and to make sure everyone was comfortable and well-fed. Besides enjoying the training, each participant remarked about the beauty and warm hospitality of St James - take a bow, everyone!

Cherub Chapel - Come and Play!

Beginning this month, on Tuesday, September 11, at 3:30 pm, we introduce our newest program: "Cherub Chapel"! St James' Cherub Chapel, modeled on St. Paul's successful Cherub Church, is a playful worship time for little ones - infants through preschool, and their caregivers. It's 45 minutes of simple and fun prayers, music, and togetherness, offered on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Are you interested in coming; would you like to help? We'd love to have you, as a visitor or more. Talk to me, or drop a line at stjames.christianeducation@gmail.com. It's an easy-going and heartwarming time of sharing!

P.S. You're also warmly invited to Cherub Church at St Paul's on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, same time - I'm the teacher there, too!

September is a Great Month for Learning and Fun

Sunday, September 16 brings the first sessions of Godly Play and Weaving God's Promises, thanks to lead teachers Jenn Sanborn and Kimberly Potts, and doorkeepers and helpers, including Kimberly Barker and Ron Jones (And you, perhaps? Interested? Talk to me!).

Later in September, older children and youth will enjoy Acolyte Training, time for fellowship and fun while bowling at Leo's, and preparations for a Cookie Walk outreach fundraiser. Stay tuned, there's something happening every month!

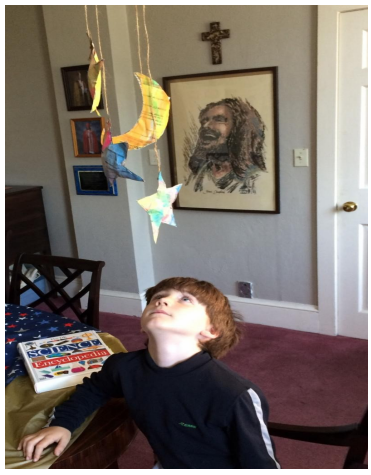
You can reach me, Linda Davis Siess, Coordinator of Children and Youth Programs, anytime at stjames.christianeducation@gmail.com - let's talk about our children!

SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES

Earth-Friendly Summer Fun Mornings at St James and St Paul's happened in July. Campers played, prayed, sang, crafted, did yoga, snacked and learned a little about God's wondrous world this summer during a 6-day, 2-week morning camp experience at St James and St Paul's. Developed and led by Linda Davis Siess, and aided by helpers (big shout out to Kimberly Barker and Kimberly Potts!), children from both parishes participated in this brand new program, which focused on "this fragile earth, our island home."

Children Created Greeting Cards: On several summer Sundays, children met in the Parish Hall for the first part of the church service - using paper, stickers, stamps, and more to create greeting cards for St James' thoughtful greeting card ministry. Some of the cards were given out immediately, some will be sent to lucky recipients in the weeks to come.

Below are some photos from"This Fragile Earth our Island Home" and "Greeting Cards"



WOMEN ON THE JOURNEY

We are excited to announce that Heidi Tessmer has joined the leadership team of the Women on the Journey and we look forward to her contributions to the group! We are also excited that the Women on the Journey gathering resumes this month, Saturday, September 15th, in the Parish Hall. Coffee will be available at 9:30 AM and the program will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Snacks are welcome if you would like to bring and share.

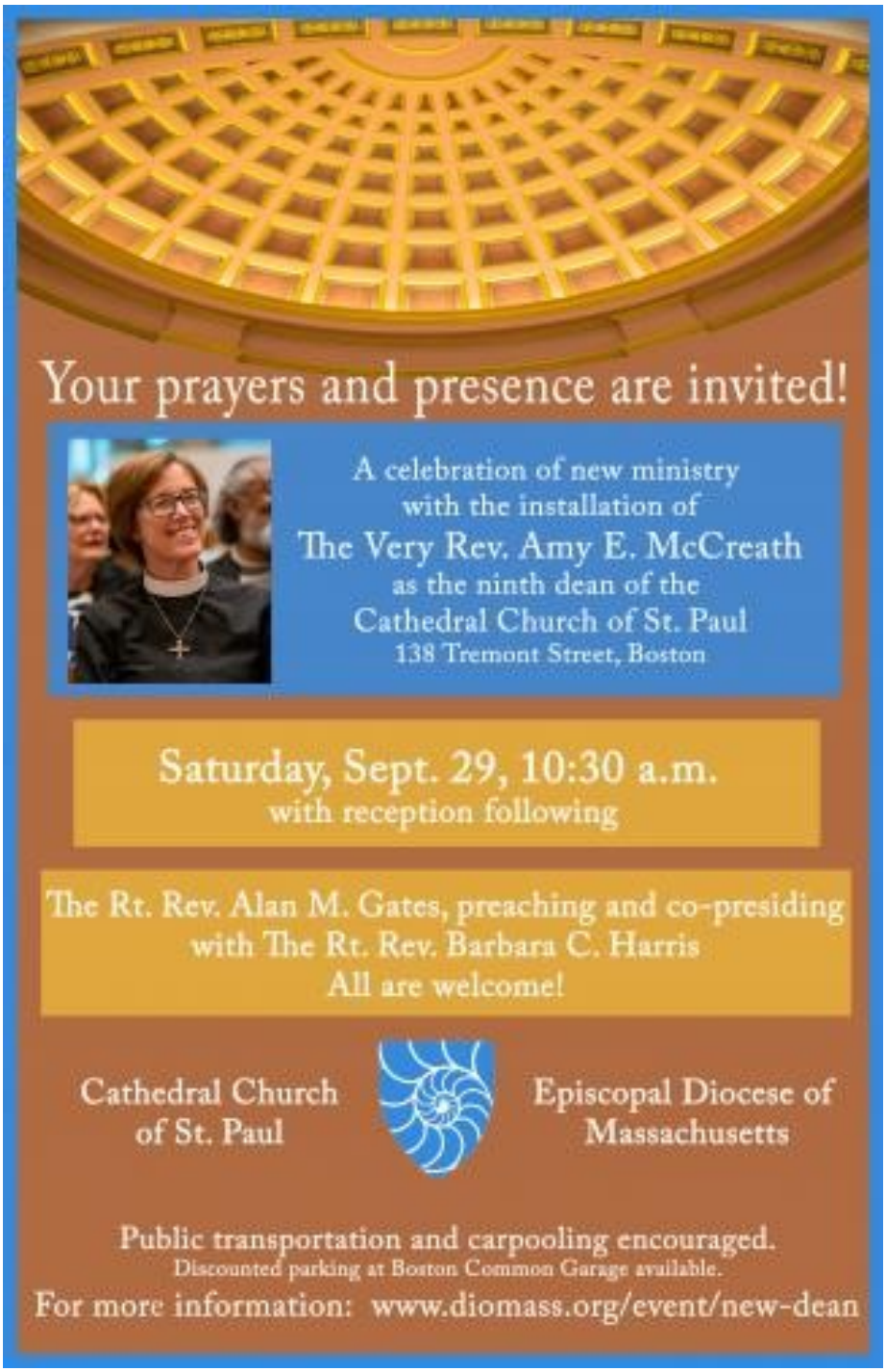
The tentative planned Retreat on October 27th has been moved up to the Spring of 2018. Stay tuned after the New Year for further details.

All women are welcome and invited to bring a friend.

Questions about the Women on the Journey should be directed to: womenonthejourney120@gmail.com

A big thank you to Fr. MacKenzie, Kim Potts and Pam Fenner for leading our worship services in August!

Also, a big thank you to Matt Siess, our organist for playing our music at our worship services all summer long!


Your prayers and presence are invited!
A celebration of new ministry
with the installation of
The Very Rev. Amy E. McCreath
as the ninth dean of the
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont Street, Boston
Saturday, Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m.
with reception following
The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, preaching and co-presiding
with The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris
All are welcome!
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Public transportation and carpooling encouraged.
Discounted parking at Boston Common Garage available.
For more information: www.diomass.org/event/new-dean

G.I.F.T.
Growing In Faith Together

ON-LINE GIVING

You can make a difference today by giving to St James. It's simple and secure! Online contributions or pledge payments may be made using VISA, MasterCard, or American Express through PayPal.

It's just a click away.

You can make a donation directly to a specific ministry within St. James, make a payment toward your annual pledge or donate to the General Fund to help with the maintenance of our beautiful church!

Just click on the 'Donate' button below and follow the steps.

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All donations are tax-deductible and you will receive a statement of your donations at the end of the year end.

PayPal does deduct a percentage from your donation as a processing fee for this service. If you wish to offset this charge so St. James receives the full donation, add an additional 2.2%.

QUICK LINKS

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Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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Blessings and Peace to All!

Rev. John Satula

St. James Episcopal Church, Amesbury, MA, 120 Main Street, Amesbury, MA 01913

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